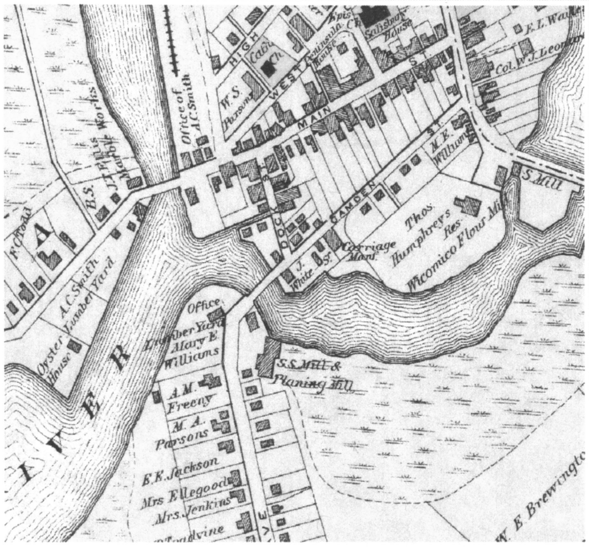
Shoreline

Vol. 23 • January 2017
For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University

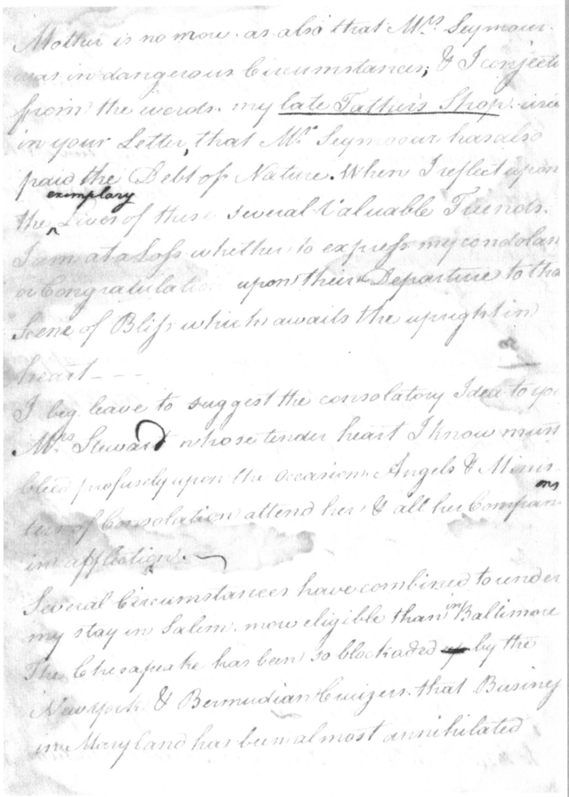
AIRBORNE
FRANCE
Army of the United States
Honorable Discharge
W.W. 2 VET.

University Archives and Special Collections


Office of J.C. Smith
W.S. Parsons
WEST
MAIN
CAMDEN
Thos. Humphreys Res.
Wicomico Flour Mill
S.S. Mill & Planing Mill
Office
Lumber Yard
Mary E. Williams
A.C. Smith Lumber Yard
Oyster House
A.M. Freeny
M.A. Parsons
E.E. Jackson
Mrs Ellegood
Mrs. Jenkins
W. E. Brewington

History of Salisbury, MD

Exhibits in the Guerrieri Academic Commons



Mother is no more as also that Mrs Seymour
was in dangerous Circumstances; & I conject
from the words my late Father's Shop. us
in your Letter, that Mr Seymour has also
paid the Debt of Nature. When I reflect upon
the exemplary Lives of these several valuable Friends.
I am at a Loss whether to express my condolan
or Congratulation upon their Departure to the
Scene of Bliss which awaits the upright in
heart---
I beg leave to suggest the consolatory Idea to yo
Mrs Steward whose tender heart I know must
bleed profusely upon the occasion. Angels & Minis-
ters of Consolation attend her & all her Companions
in affliction:—
Several Circumstances have combined to render
my stay in Salem more eligible than in Baltimore
The Chesapeake has been so blockaded by the
New York & Bermudian Cruizers that Business
in Maryland has been almost annihilated

James Carey 1783 Letter

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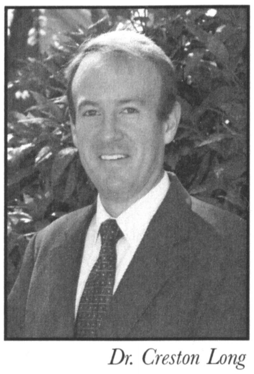
From the Director's Chair

By Dr. Creston Long,
Nabb Research Center Director


Dr. Creston Long

On July 1 of this year, I had the honor of taking on the responsibilities of the Nabb Center director. I will take this opportunity at the outset to honor and thank my predecessor Ray Thompson for his years of commitment to the Nabb Center and its mission. As a co-founder and long-time director Ray shaped the Nabb Center from its earliest days through the planning of the move to our current site. His vision for the study of regional history and culture has set a course for the Nabb Center that will endure.

For me, moving to the Nabb Center after teaching in the History Department for 14 years has marked a return to my starting point here at Salisbury University. Years ago as I first stepped into the Nabb Center when I was still a graduate student, I recognized that the Center held a unique place in the long list of historical societies and libraries in this region of the country. No other institution focuses on Delmarva's past in the same manner as the Nabb Center. Most libraries and historical societies serve specific jurisdictions either at the county or state level. Because Delmarva's history and culture transcend county and state lines, it stands to reason that being able to study records from throughout the Peninsula all in one repository makes it far easier for family researchers, students and scholars who are interested in the region to do their work. Returning to the Nabb Center as it has made the transition to its new physical location has been exciting and rewarding. But, for me, the most compelling part of this transition is sustaining the commitment of the Nabb Center to the region's history and culture and to the community even as we explore new ways of pursuing the study of the area.

The Nabb Research Center's new facility is now fully operational. Students and community researchers have been using and getting re-acquainted with the Center's resources since the opening in late August. Our new Carey Family Research Room has seating for 50 researchers; the new classroom easily accommodates classes of 35 students; and the archival and artifact storage spaces house the Local History Archives, the University Archives and Special Collections. Some of the more exciting and public features of the new facility include the exhibit spaces. Currently, we have three exhibit areas. The first is on the first floor of the Guerrieri Academic Commons at the base of the main stairs. This space features an area that allows rotating exhibits of interest to various constituencies. The G. Ray Thompson Gallery on the fourth floor features rotating exhibits that will change every few months. This fall, the Thompson Gallery featured the nationally renowned Ruth Starr Rose exhibit, featuring oil paintings and lithographs of African American families on the Eastern Shore during the 1930s and '40s. Finally, the Niemann Gallery contains the permanent exhibit, "Delmarva: People, Place and Time" featuring artifacts, furniture and documentary representations of life and work in the region.

Our archival and curatorial staff have been working with graduate and undergraduate students in their respective areas of the collections. Leslie Mc Roberts, the local history archivist, with the assistance of our graduate assistants and an undergraduate archival intern, has been making major progress processing collections connected to Delmarva history. Part of the Nabb Center's expansion also has

continues on page 5

Submissions

The Nabb Research Center is always interested in articles on the history, culture or heritage of the Delmarva region. If you or anyone you know is interested in writing for *Shoreline*, please send material, proposals, suggestions or comments to the attention of the "Newsletter Editor" as follows:

Nabb Research Center
Salisbury University
1101 Camden Ave.
Salisbury, MD 21801-6860

Or by email to nabbcenter@salisbury.edu. Please include the words "Newsletter Editor" in the subject line.

Hours & Closings

READING ROOM HOURS:
Monday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

CLOSINGS:
Martin Luther King Jr. Day: January 16
Spring Break: March 20-26
Memorial Day: May 29

Shoreline

Contents...

4 . . . *Nabb Research Center: A Look Inside*

6 . . . .*History of Salisbury, MD*

11 . . .*James Carey 1783 Letter*

12 . . .*Barbados and the Connection with George Washington*

14 . . .*Princess Anne Academy*

16 . . .*Exhibits in the Guerrieri Academic Commons*

17 . . .*Fond Farewells and Welcomes: Changes in the Reception Area*

18 . . .*First Comes Love, Then Comes Marriage: The Role of Marriage in 17th-Century Virginia*

20 . . .*Volunteer Corner*

21 . . .*University Archives and Special Collections*

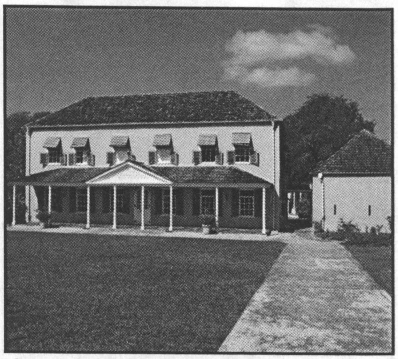
22 . . .*The Life of John Vigorous: The Practice of Surgery and the Pursuit of Social Status in Late 17th Century Somerset County*

24 . . .*Women with Probate in Colonial Maryland*

25 . . .*Non-Partisan and Proud: Records of the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Shore*

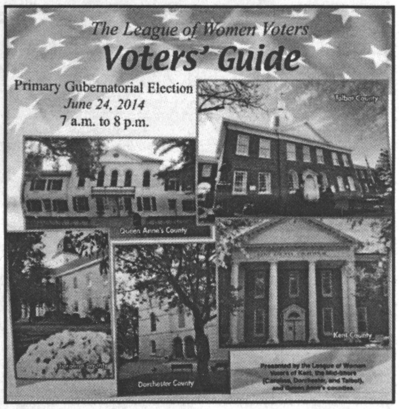
26 . . .*Upcoming Events and Exhibits*

27 . . .*Donors & Members*



12
Barbados and the Connection with George Washington

21
University Archives and Special Collections


The League of Women Voters
Voters' Guide
Primary Gubernatorial Election
June 24, 2014
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Talbot County
Queen Anne's County
Caroline County
Dorchester County
Kent County
Presented by the League of Women Voters of Kent, the Mid-Shore (Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot), and Queen Anne's counties.

25
Non-Partisan and Proud: Records of the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Shore

Volume 23 • January 2017

Director, Creston Long. *Local History Archivist,* Leslie McRoberts. *Administrative Assistant,* Donna T. Messick. *Archival Assistant,* Barbara Weiss. *Curator,* Janie Kreines. *Graduate Assistants,* Joel Henry and Artura Jackson. *Receptionist,* Nicole Rogers. *Research Assistant,* T. Aaron Horner. *SU Archivist,* Ian Post.

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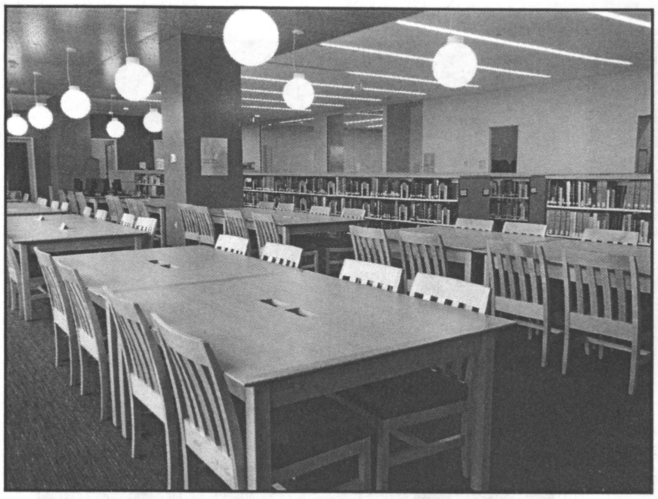
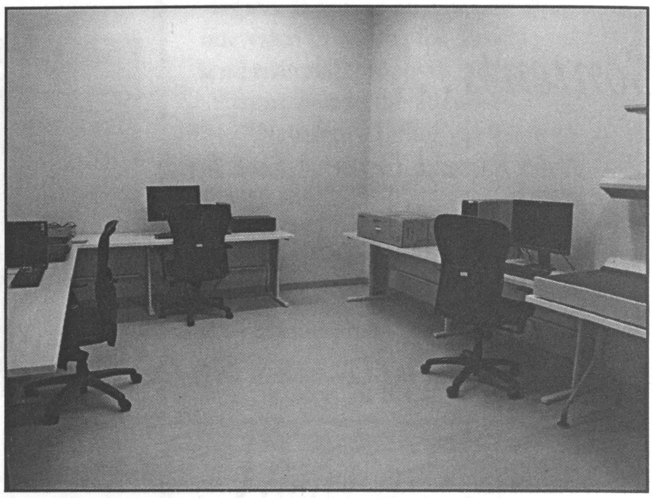
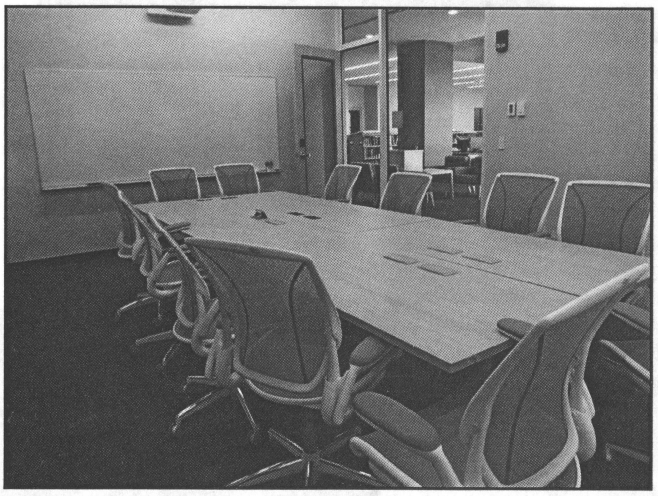
Nabb Research Center: A Look Inside



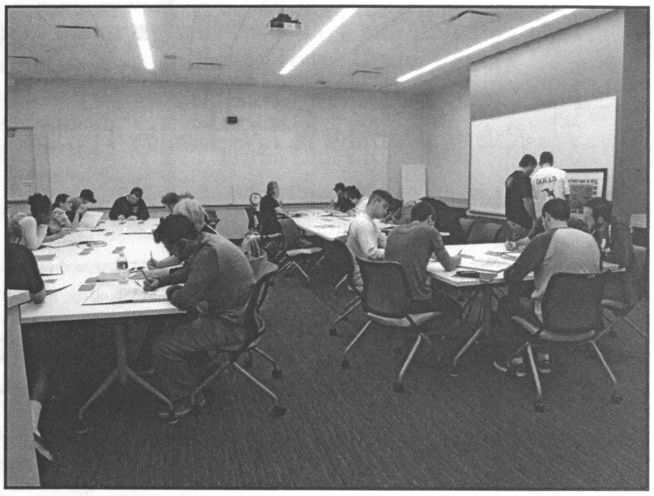
Carey Family Research Room



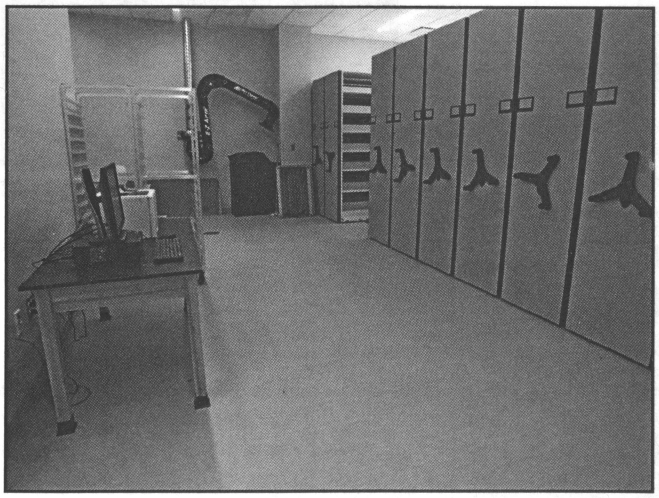
Bettie Harcum Morris Digitization & Processing Center



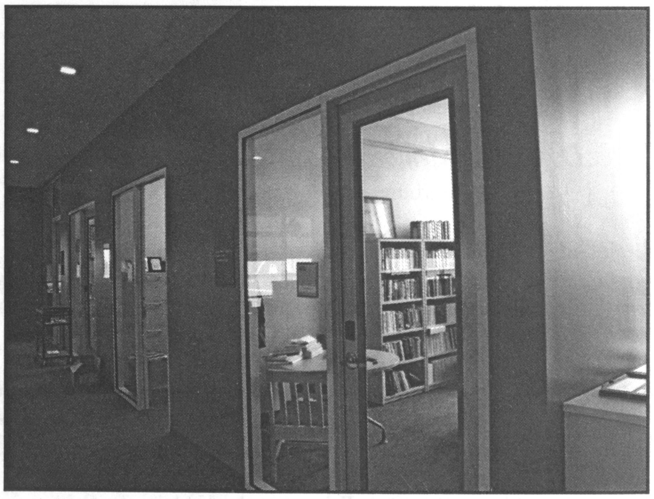
Thompson Conference Room



Austin Faucett Okie Classroom



Louise Smith Archaeology Lab



Reese Cropper III Staff Office & John Edwin Jacob Jr. Director's Office

From the Director's Chair continued

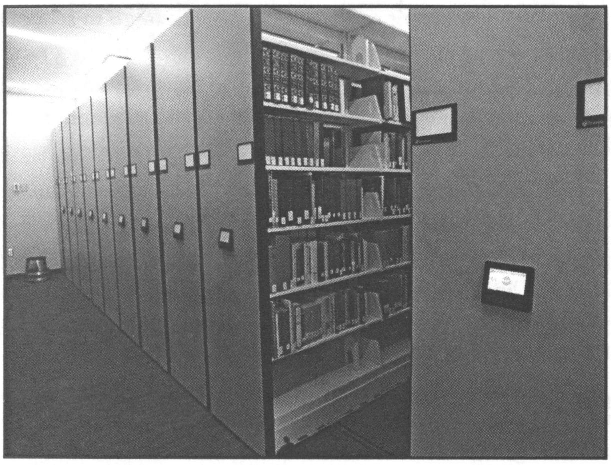
involved hiring new staff members. Ian Post, the University archivist and Special Collections librarian, and his student assistant have been processing SU collections and items that make up the diverse Special Collections. He also has created an exceptionally useful finding aid with item descriptions for many of the fascinating items that make up the Special Collections. Janie Kreines, the Nabb Center curator, designed and created the terrific exhibits, and she has worked with two graduate assistants on the next round of temporary exhibits that began early in 2017. All of this activity is to the end of enhancing access to our rich collections and to creating opportunities for students, community researchers and scholars to study Delmarva.

Aaron Horner, the Nabb Center research assistant familiar to virtually all long-time Nabb patrons, now maintains a watchful eye over the Carey Family Research Room. Over the years, his unsurpassed familiarity with the area's land, probate and court records has helped countless researchers, including students and community patrons, navigate the Nabb Center's rich public record collection. Aaron is involved in several ongoing research efforts that we expect to move online within the next year or so, and he continues to serve as a ready and reliable guide for our patrons as they go about conducting their research. Meanwhile, Donna Messick, the Nabb Center's administrative assistant since 2000, continues to play multiple roles. From coordinating our volunteers to maintaining our membership records and correspondence to helping shape the vision for the Nabb Center, Donna proves to be invaluable every day.

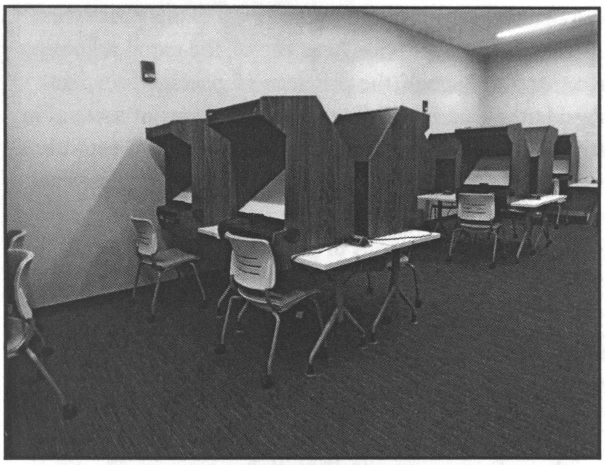
Obviously, I have moved into the director's position with an excellent team already in place.

We are poised to move forward in new ways to study and present the area's history and culture. Our staff members are building new partnerships with faculty members here on campus and are reaching out to work with different historical groups in the community. As these relationships begin to yield new insights into our region's past, we will be sure to share them both online and here in the *Shoreline*. Thank you for your support as the Nabb Center moves into this exciting new year.

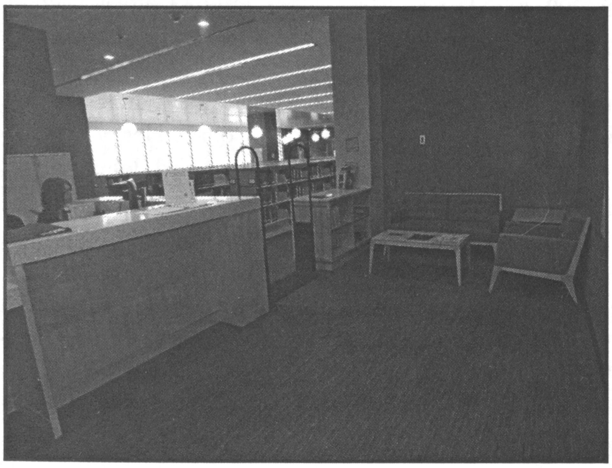
Nabb Research Center: A Look Inside (continued)



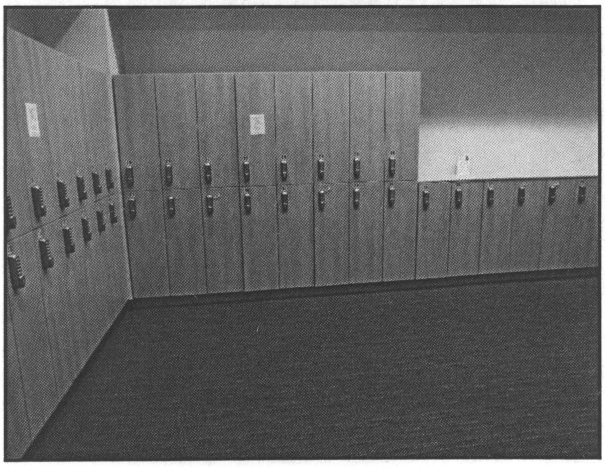
Mobile book shelving & microfilm room



Microfilm reading room



Reception area



Locker storage

History of Salisbury, MD

By John E. Jacob Jr.

This fourth installment of the unpublished manuscript "Founding and Early History of Salisbury, 1730-1867" by the late John E. Jacob, of Salisbury, MD, contains chapters VIII-IX.

CHAPTER VIII • 1808-1811

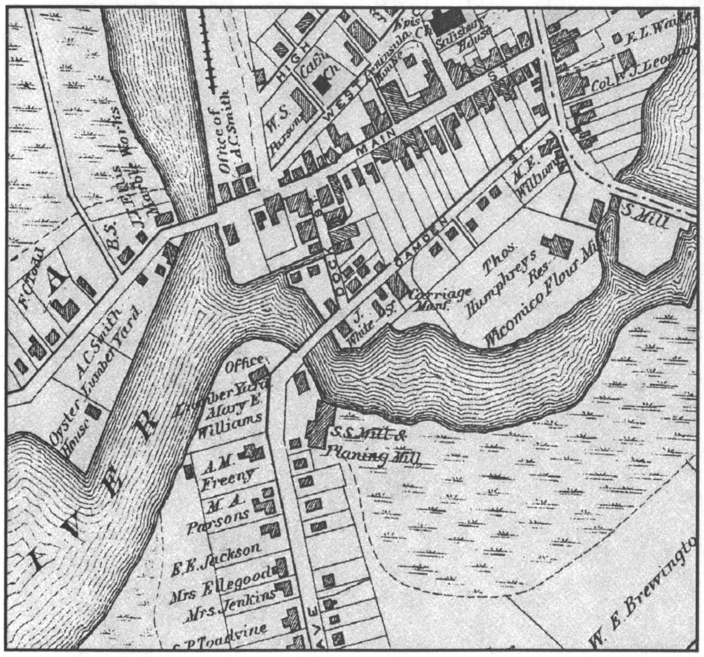
Madison's First Term

The trade embargo passed by Congress as a result of the Napoleonic Wars in December 1807 was having an adverse economic effect in Maryland. Farmers were suffering because they could no longer export their crops. It was too soon, however, to affect Madison's election campaign. The lower Shore cast 1,433 votes for Henry James Carroll, the Federalist candidate for presidential elector, to Prideaux's 539. By the fall of 1808 there was a resurgence of Federalist activity in the state, and an anti-embargo ticket got a majority in the Legislature.

Sales by Dr. Lemmon

Dr. Robert Lemmon, continuing the disposal of his properties, sold to Spencer Todd a lot with "free use of the canal adjoining said lot reserving to himself the privilege of passage four feet wide alongside the canal until Spencer shall clear out a canal in continuation of the present canal eastward as far as it extends in that direction." In other words, Spencer was to dredge an extension of the canal behind the lot purchased.

This canal may still be seen in part on the 1877 map of Salisbury. This extension of it had to be filled when Dock Street was opened. The canal was at the rear of the lot and was the access to that lot from the Wicomico River.



The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland

Lemmon sold to Joshua Leonard, blacksmith, for $52, Point Noble. This is the property on the north side of Isabella Street where the brick yard is presently located.

He also sold to Nancy Townsend a lot on the west side of Dividing Street opposite the store of William Hearn. This lot is part of the property where the 100 Plaza West building is presently located. And he sold to Purnell Trader the lot alongside the Townsend lot which is described in the deed as "near where the street from the bridge at Salisbury strikes Dividing Street."

Asa Dashiell

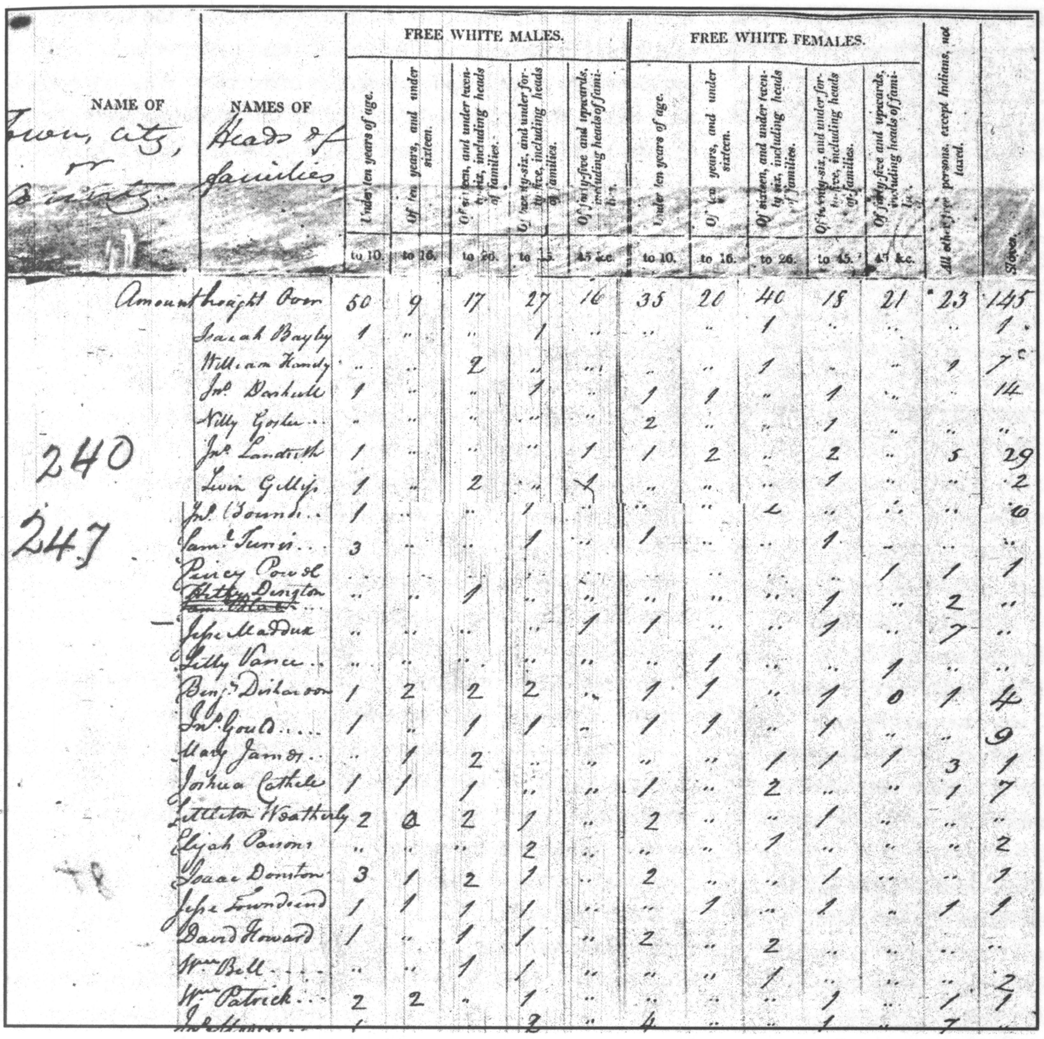
The articles of apprenticeship of Asa Dashiell are interesting. He was eleven years old on 10 November 1809 and he was apprenticed to Levin Hitch to become a shoemaker. The apprenticeship agreement specified that he was to go to school not to exceed one year at the expense of Shiles Crockett, his guardian. Did that mean one additional year after his eleventh birthday, or did it mean that Ace was to get only one year of schooling?

The Census of 1810

According to the 1810 census there were approximately three hundred whites and about half that number of blacks in Salisbury. We cannot come closer because there were no town limits and because all of the slaves are recorded where their masters lived, regardless of where the slaves actually lived and worked.

The families from Somerset included in the census were: William Handy, John Dashiell, Nelly Goslee, John Landreth, Levin Gillis, John Hoffman, Ann Chaille, John Bounds, Paircy Powell, Hetty Denston, Jesse Maddux, Lilly Vance, Benjamin Disharoon, John Gould, Mary James, Joshua Cathell, Littleton Weatherly, Elijah Parsons, Isaac Denston, Jesse Townsend, David Howard, William Bell, William Patrick, John Moore, Stephen Davis, Henry Evans, Leah Lowe, Micajah Hudson, George Christopher, George Robertson, John Collins, Henry Bethards, Anne Houston, Elizabeth Stenson, James Laird, John Knipshilt, Patty Howard, John Umsted, James Middleton, Peregrine Weatherly, John Rider, George Parker, Robert Lemmon, John Fitzgerald, James Evans and William Polk.

The Worcester County families in the census were: William Dailey, Thomas Hooper, Jonathan Parsons, John Venables, Eli Christopher, Alexander Lowe, Jehu Parsons, Dr. John Houston, Ebenezer Leonard, William Hearn, Levin Hitch and Charles Dashiell.



NAME OF Town, city, or district	NAMES OF Heads of families	FREE WHITE MALES. Under ten years of age. to 10.	Of ten years, and under sixteen. to 16.	Of sixteen, and under twenty-six, including heads of families. to 26.	Of twenty-six, and under forty-five, including heads of families. to 45.	Of forty-five and upwards, including heads of families. 45 &c.	FREE WHITE FEMALES. Under ten years of age. to 10.	Of ten years, and under sixteen. to 16.	Of sixteen, and under twenty-six, including heads of families. to 26.	Of twenty-six, and under forty-five, including heads of families. to 45.	Of forty-five and upwards, including heads of families. 45 &c.	All other free persons, except Indians, not taxed.	Slaves.
	Amount brought over	50	9	17	27	16	35	20	40	18	21	23	145
	Isaiah Bayly	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
	William Handy	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	7
	Jno Dashiell	1	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	14
	Nilly Gosler	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..
240	Jno Landreth	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	2	..	5	29
	Levin Gillis	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
	Jno Bounds	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	6
247	Saml Turner	3	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
	Piercy Powell	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
	Betty Dington	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..
	Jesse Maddux	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	7	..
	Tilly Vance	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
	Benjn Disharoon	1	2	2	2	..	1	1	..	1	0	1	4
	Jno Gould	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	9
	Mary James	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	3	1
	Joshua Cathell	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	1	7
	Littleton Weatherly	2	2	2	1	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..
	Elijah Parsons	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
	Isaac Denston	3	1	2	1	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	1
	Jesse Townsend	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	1
	David Howard	1	..	1	1	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
	Wm Bell	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
	Wm Patrick	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1

Parts of 1810 U.S. Federal Census Wicomico Hundred, Somerset County, Maryland

The sale was on 15 September 1810. They sold one parcel of 43 5/8 acres opposite his mill to Josiah Bayly, the owner of the mill at Isabella Street, for $7.05 per acre. This was subject to a right-of-way from the County Road to Spring Hill "sufficiently wide for carts and carriages." This was probably part of the right-of-way to his mill which was why he bought it.

William Handy, one of the two trustees, bought the half-interest in the saw mill at Fitzwater Street from his sister, Leah Irving. She had bought it at the sale because a trustee may not buy direct from himself. They sold the 40 acres, that later became known as California, to Spencer Todd, who bought it as a home and established a Todd burial ground on it. They sold to Peter Dashiell the 43 5/8 acres south of the piece they had sold to Josiah Bayly, and sold 312 ½ acres north of Isabella Street to Thomas Bird.

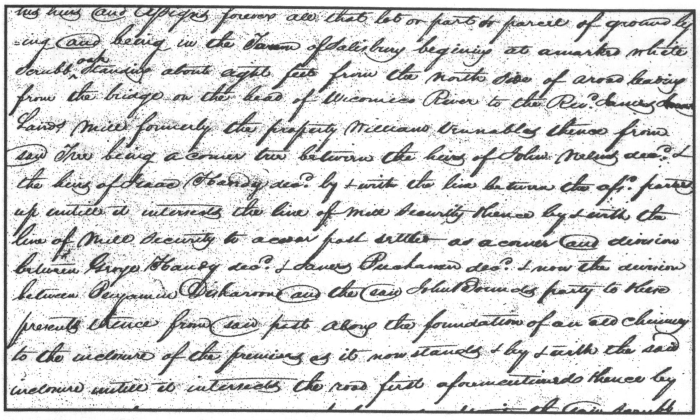
But the most interesting is the last piece of land that they sold to John Bounds for $550. It was in the town of Salisbury and began "at a marked scrub white oak about 8 feet from the north side of the road leading from the bridge across the river [Bridge Street] thence from said tree a corner tree between the lines of John Nelms deceased and the heirs of Isaac Handy deceased by and with the line of the aforesaid parties up until it intersects the line of Mill Security thence by and with the line of Mill Security to a cedar post settled as a corner and dividing line between George Handy deceased and James Buchanan deceased... And from thence along the foundation of an old chimney to the enclosure of the premises as it now stands and by and with the said enclosure until it intersects the road first above mentioned thence by and with said road until it get opposite the said scrub white oak thence with a straight line to the aforesaid oak." Why is this so interesting? The description has been set out in full. It is probably one of the lots laid out on the original plat of Salisbury in 1732. There is no deed on record for the lot, and this is the first sale of the lot since 1732. It had passed down in the Handy family since they originally subscribed for it.

Church Street

Outerbridge Horsey sold to James Powell two houses and lots on Church Street that had been the property of his father, Dr. William Horsey. The son had moved to Delaware and became more famous than his father. Benjamin Disharoon bought the three lots of James Buchanan that fronted on both Church and Bridge Streets. On 11 June 1810 Thomas Dashiell, Constable, sold to John W. Parsons, on a writ of execution against Levin Parsons, the houses on Church Street occupied by Micajah Hudson and James Land, and from William Patrick to Peregrine Weatherly for $700.17.

The Handy Sale

Isaac and William Handy owned the mill on what is now Parsons Road and the mill pond and lands around it. Isaac died in 1791 leaving a widow and minor children. His brother, William Handy, became the guardian of the children and the business advisor of his sister-in-law. When Isaac's son, Edward G. Handy, reached his majority, he was appointed trustee along with his uncle to sell the land and mill of his father and uncle.



his heirs and Assigns forever all that lot or part or parcel of ground ly-
-ing and being in the Town of Salisbury begining at a marked white
scrubb oak standing about eight feet from the north side of a road leading
from the bridge on the head of Wicomico River to the Revd. James
Lairds Mill formerly the property William Venables thence from
said Tree being a corner tree between the heirs of John Nelson decd. &
the heirs of Isaac Handy decd. by & with the line between the afsd. parties
up untill it intersects the line of Mill Security thence by & with the
line of Mill Security to a cedar post setted as a corner and division
between George Handy decd. & James Buchanan decd. & now the division
between Benjamin Dickarson and the said John Bounds party to these
presents thence from said post along the foundation of an old chimney
to the inclosure of the premises as it now stands & by & with the said
inclosure untill it intersects the road first afore mentioned thence by

Deed from John Handy to John Bounds. Somerset County Land Records, Volume U Folio 8

First Incorporation

Chapter 153 of the Acts of Assembly, 1811 provided the first incorporation of the town. It provided for the election of five commissioners living within the town or within three miles thereof and possessing property within the town, in his own right or in the right of his wife. The free white males over 21 and owning property of the value of $30 were to meet at Ann Chaille's tavern on the first Monday in April 1812 to elect the five commissioners. After their election the commissioners were to arrange themselves into classes so that one commissioner's term would expire each year.

The commissioners were to meet on election night and in every third month thereafter and more often if it was thought necessary. They had the authority to 1) recommend such plans and specifications as they shall judge beneficial to the town or the inhabitants; 2) to remove all nuisances or obstructions in the streets, lanes and alleys; 3) to provide for the repair of the streets whenever a majority of the inhabitants shall reasonably require repairs and sufficient money can be raised by subscription or otherwise for that salutary purpose; 4) to register those eligible to vote; 5) to appoint a clerk to keep their proceedings and to keep them available for inspection by those governed; 6) to meet at a time and place in the town where their sentiments may be required on any extraordinary occasion; 7) to provide for the assessment of all real and personal property within the town limits by a skillful person; 8) to levy any sum or sums provided the money to be levied does not exceed $1 on every $100 of property at its assessed value; 9) to appoint a bailiff and to give him such duties as shall be necessary for the government of the town; 10) to pay the clerk and bailiff. The commissioners were to hear any appeals from the assessment. The bailiff was to be appointed for one year, and was to attend such meetings as shall be required.

The town limits were to begin at Polk's Mill thence running with a road leading there from easterly until it intersects the main road dividing Somerset and Worcester Counties, thence down the said Dividing Road as far as the land of Dr. John Houston extends so as to leave the house and lot of Charles Dashiell, Sr., within said town, thence with a line so as to leave the lands of said John Houston out of the limits of said town, until it intersects the branch upon which the mills called Winder's Mills are erected, thence down by and with said branch including Winder's Mills aforesaid to the bridge across the branch of Wicomico upon which Polk's Mill aforesaid are erected; thence up with said branch of Wicomico to Polk's Mills aforesaid.

Fire Protection

The Acts of Assembly, Chapter 148 created a lottery for the benefit of Salisbury "to raise a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars, after deducting the necessary expenses" for the purchase of a fire engine for protection of the town and for the erection of a building to house it.

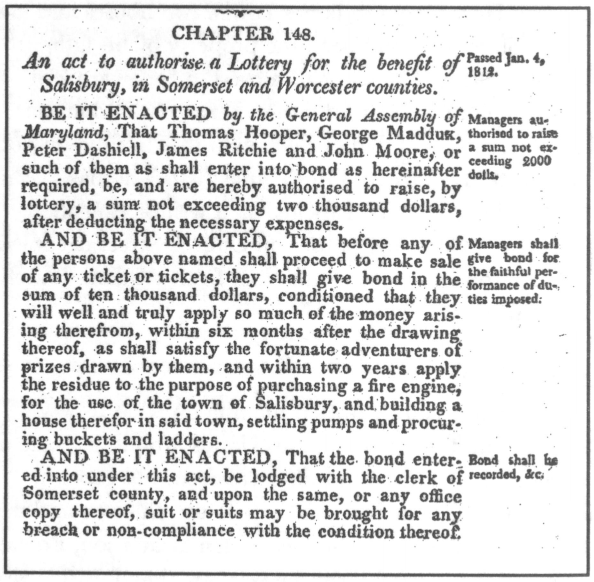
Thomas Hooper, George Maddux, Peter Dashiell, James Ritchie and John Moore were to enter into a bond for $10,000 and within six months after the drawing would pay off the prizes and within two years purchase a fire engine, erect a building, and provide settling pumps and procure buckets and ladders. The bond was to be lodged with the Clerk of Court for Somerset County. When the bond was written, James Ritchie's name was not on it. Presumably he refused to serve or had died.

The lottery was successful and the money was raised for the purchase of the above pumps and equipment. Whether the original equipment was used in the 1860 fire is unknown.

We must assume that the town government was formed and commissioners elected.

Peter Dashiell

On 11 March 1811 Peter Dashiell sold to Thomas Hooper a lot on the west side of the north branch of the river on which Hooper erected a granary. This lot began near the corner of a lot occupied by Levin Williams, a free black. And on 24



CHAPTER 148.

An act to authorise a Lottery for the benefit of Salisbury, in Somerset and Worcester counties. Passed Jan. 4, 1812.

BE IT ENACTED *by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Thomas Hooper, George Maddux, Peter Dashiell, James Ritchie and John Moore, or such of them as shall enter into bond as hereinafter required, be, and are hereby authorised to raise, by lottery, a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars, after deducting the necessary expenses. Managers authorised to raise a sum not exceeding 2000 dolls.

AND BE IT ENACTED, That before any of the persons above named shall proceed to make sale of any ticket or tickets, they shall give bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars, conditioned that they will well and truly apply so much of the money arising therefrom, within six months after the drawing thereof, as shall satisfy the fortunate adventurers of prizes drawn by them, and within two years apply the residue to the purpose of purchasing a fire engine, for the use of the town of Salisbury, and building a house therefor in said town, settling pumps and procuring buckets and ladders. Managers shall give bond for the faithful performance of duties imposed.

AND BE IT ENACTED, That the bond entered into under this act, be lodged with the clerk of Somerset county, and upon the same, or any office copy thereof, suit or suits may be brought for any breach or non-compliance with the condition thereof. Bond shall be recorded, &c.

An act to create a lottery for fire protection of Salisbury Session Laws, 1811, Volume 614, Page 135

September 1811 Dashiell conveyed to his brother-in-law, Dr. John Houston, the cypress swamp. This is where the shopping center west of the river is on what is now Cypress Street. The consideration for this deed was the verbal promise to furnish free medical care to Peter's family during Houston's lifetime. This is the first example of prepaid medical care in the annals of Salisbury. In 1811 Dashiell also sold John Bounds the lot on the river immediately south of the lot sold to Hooper.

Sandy Plains and Mill Grove

On 15 October 1811 William Henry Winder sold to Samuel Williams for $1,200 the rest of the two tracts not previously sold to Joshua Disharoon. This is the land on which Sally Hooper, wife of Thomas and daughter of Samuel Williams, would in the future lay out the Camden development.

John Cathell

It is only when hard times come, and retail sales fall off, that we learn how some of the shops were equipped. John Cathell had to borrow money and pledged his personal property as security for the debt on 7 April 1809 as follows: three beds and furniture, one weaving lumber (loom) stays and gear, two iron pots, one griddle and tea kettle, one pair of andirons, two trunks, three chests, four chairs, two tables, one cupboard with all the earthenware belonging to the house, six barrels, one sow, five shoats and all the pewter and wool and flax, six silver teaspoons, thirteen hats and all the kettles and utensils belonging to the hatter's shop with all the fur thereunto belonging. There is no question that Cathell was a hatter, but the loom may have been operated by his wife.

Miscellany

Elijah Parsons was appointed the constable for both Salisbury and Wicomico Hundreds on 10 June 1810.

John Umsted took his oath as deputy surveyor for Worcester County on 18 October 1811.

On 15 April 1811 Dr. Haynie conveyed to Dr. Robert Lemmon a 5 ¾ acre lot in his development "now in the possession of Temperance Flint," who is not listed in the 1810 census.

On 26 April 1811 James Denson conveyed a lot bounded on the East by a lot "now in possession of David Cathell," another census escapee.

And John Houston bought of Isaac Denston 300 acres of Corkland on the west side of the River.

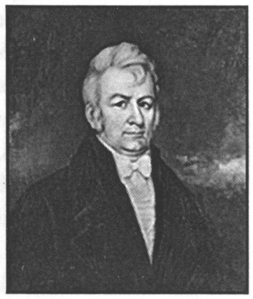
CHAPTER IX • 1812-1815

The War Years

On 18 June 1812 Congress declared war against Great Britain. Madison issued a proclamation the following day that a state of war existed. On 20 July in the *Federal Republican,* a Baltimore newspaper, appeared an editorial which said that the war was begun "without funds, without taxes, without a navy or adequate fortifications." This highly critical editorial stirred a response, and on Monday the 22nd a mob formed outside the paper's offices, destroyed the press and tore the building down.

The following week the paper was still published and a mob again formed outside the house from which the paper was distributed. The military arrested the men inside the house and took them to jail. The mob broke into the jail, seized the prisoners and after severely beating them, threw them down the steps where they lay for three hours. General Henry (Light Horse Harry) Lee, the father of Robert E. Lee, was one of these men. He sustained painful injuries from which he suffered the rest of his life. Others were injured as well.

Maryland During the War



In Maryland there was a strong reaction to this lawlessness. In the election for delegates to the state legislature fifty-four Federalists were elected; and on a joint ballot with the Senate, Levin Winder was elected governor. Levin was the son of William Winder, Sr.; he was born near Salisbury in the steward's house of Wicomico Manor.

Although originally opposed to the war, Levin Winder, as governor, found himself in charge of the defenses with little help from the national government. President Madison decided to set up a special military district and appointed 39-year-old Brigadier General William Henry Winder to command it. This was principally because his uncle Levin was governor of Maryland.

General Winder discovered in about a week that "he had no staff, no transport, no surgeon, no provisions, no rifles, no flints." Secretary Armstrong, the Secretary of War, had opposed his appointment and did nothing to help him. He was left alone to do what he could. What he did was not much, and he suffered a major defeat at Bladensburg. The military success at Baltimore's Fort McHenry enhanced the reputation of Levin Winder who won re-election each year through 1815. He remained governor until 2 January 1816. The war ended with the ratification of the peace treaty on 17 February 1815.

British Ships in the Bay

The British ships based at Tangier Island made frequent forays on the western shore and on the northern part of the Eastern Shore, but except for one tale of American boats fleeing to the area of Somers Cove with British boats in pursuit, succeeded by a lively skirmish at the Somerset shore, there are no recorded or unrecorded stories of raids against the lower Eastern Shore. Perhaps that is because the British ships needed to buy fresh provisions from the Americans and knew that raids against Dorchester and Somerset Counties would cut off that possibility.

There was one sign of war. James Herron, an Episcopal minister and ex-British citizen then living in Salisbury, found it expedient to record on 21 January 1812 in Somerset County, Maryland, his decree of naturalization which had been granted to him at Georgetown, Delaware, when he bought property on North Dividing Street.

Property Transfers

Unlike the period of the Revolution, the property transfers in Salisbury did not stop during the War of 1812. The history of the war years may seem like a recitation of conveyances. However, these years were prosperous for the Salisbury area, and the currency was relatively stable. Boat transportation was constrained by the presence of the British in the Bay, but otherwise conditions seemed normal.

Ann Chaillé bought the tavern from John Gould for $2,200 on 11 March 1812 which Charles J. Truitt describes as "a low rambling frame structure with enormous chimneys at each end." Ann had probably taken over the operation of the tavern before the town election was to be held at Ann Chaillé's tavern. She operated it for only a short time since her will was made on 20 October 1814, and it was probated on 8 December. Her brother-in-law, Henry Parsons, was her executor and guardian of her two minor children, Peter and William. As strange as it may seem, this was one of the few businesses open to women. Mary Walker, the mother of Dr. Cathell Humphreys' first wife, was another woman in this business, as shown by the license in Worcester County obtained by her. Mary's business was probably in the tavern built by James Fooks on the courthouse site.

And on 15 September 1812, Samuel Moore conveyed part of Corkland to Whitly Cox "about half a mile from Polk and Bailey's Mills 30 3/4 acres."

Jehu Parsons and Daniel Davis were co-executors of the will of Stephen Davis; they had to sell Davis' half-interest to a third party who in turn conveyed the half interest back to Jehu. It brought $320 which was more than half of what it cost originally.

Deaths like Ann Chaillé's and Davis' show how short the life expectancies could be at that time.

West of the River

On 15 January 1814, Peter Dashiell sold to Mrs. Claire Davis a lot for $7 and also "her having bought the right which Eben Willis had in the said lot he having heretofore paid me $23." The installment sale of lots was an acceptable method of land purchase, and many houses and lots were bought that way, and this lasted well into this century. Peter Dashiell sold to Marnick Armstrong, a free black, a lot on what is now West Main Street which was described as at "the northwest part of the hill."

On 3 November 1814, Peter sold to William Hearn a part of Expense containing 6 1/2 acres. This lot was on the south side of the county road to Rockawalkin Meeting house (the Presbyterian Church), and also stands at the north westernmost corner of a lot and wharf.

All of these sales were parts of the tracts that Peter Dashiell had acquired and show the steady movement into the area.

In the Commercial District

On 13 July 1814, William Williams of Samuel sold to Levin Williams property on the west side of Dividing Street near a "shop now occupied by Dr. William Savage." Savage had an apothecary shop which was on the corner of Back and Dividing Streets.

On 9 July 1814 Purnell Johnson sold to Joshua Johnson and Jonathan L. Parsons a lot near the bridge. And on 22 August 1814 Dr. Robert Lemmon sold to William Parson, storekeeper, the next lot between it and Captain Todd's. Spencer Todd was presumably a ship captain before he became a merchant.

On 18 December 1814 Mary James sold to her son, Francis W. James, for $1,500 the lot on the north side of Bridge Street that had formerly belonged to her husband, Dr. William James and it was resold to William S. Bell. A deed from William S. Bell to James Laird and James Murray, describes the property "together with the hog pens, malt houses, land, premises and distilling therein mentioned." This is the only distilling operation that the author has run across which mentions a beer and liquor operation in Salisbury.

On 21 January 1815 James Ritchie sold his lots 2, 3, and 4 to Mary James. Ritchie was retiring, but he was only 50 and lived for another 7 years. Mary James resold the lot to Daniel Davis for the same price, so she was probably buying it for him.

Later Patents

On 12 November 1814, William Dayly, Jr., conveyed to Dr. Handy Harris Irving a piece of vacant land which he had discovered and patented. It contained 5/8 of an acre and lay between Pemberton's Good Will, Mill Security and Salisbury Town. Doctor Irving recorded it at the same time he bought his house property which was between Church and High Streets.

North Dividing Street

On 26 November 1814, Rebecca Lamberson sold to Levin Game for $20 part of Pemberton's Good Will "on the west side of Dividing Street alongside a lot already in possession of Aaron Polk and a lot belonging to Aaron Wingate." The deed does not specify the color of the parties, but they were all blacks. This tells us that there have been free blacks on North Dividing Street for over one hundred and eighty years.

Masonry

The history of Masonry in Salisbury goes back to the 1790s when on 18 December 1794, the Grand Lodge issued a warrant for Harmonic Lodge No. 17. Here Joshua Jones was the Master; Henry Williams, Esquire; Peter Dashiell, Senior Warden; Bartholomew Kennedy, Junior Warden and the following members: Samuel Poor or Parr, John Bond, George Dorman, Goodwin Atwood, and John Ellegood. The lodge apparently became inactive in May 1805.

Masonry Revived

Peter Dashiell revived the Masonic order in Salisbury. The Grand Lodge of Maryland, at a meeting in Baltimore on 6 November 1815, in answer to a petition "from sundry brethren in the town of Salisbury" to establish a new lodge here issued a warrant to the brethren to establish Salisbury Lodge No. 57 with Peter Dashiell as Master, Esme M. Walker as Senior Warden and George Walter as Junior Warden. It was not established until 1818 and was not represented in the Grand Lodge after May 1827.

A number of the members advanced to the 7th or 8th degrees so there must have been a Royal Arch chapter attached to the lodge or one nearby. Peter Dashiell was one of the first appointed Grand Inspector, a position he held from 1811 until he died on 19 May 1819. Noah Rider, the first master of the current lodge, was a member of Salisbury Lodge No. 57.

In Worcester

On 10 April 1815 William H. Winder for $100 conveyed to Jehu Parsons all that part of Pemberton's Good Will "not heretofore sold south of Church Street." According to the plat this deed contained 137 acres of land with plenty of frontage on the "road to Mitchell's Bridge." This was less than 80 cents an acre.

Miscellany

William Parsons obtained a liquor license to sell liquor in small measure in Salisbury, as did Benjamin Parsons and Thomas Hooper. All were in Worcester County.

Colonel Thomas Humphreys qualified as a justice of the peace for Salisbury Hundred on 6 February 1813.

On 16 March 1813, James and Arietta Laird went through a strawman conveyance which set the value of the mills and the remaining property at $12,000. The mills were for sale, and that was the asking price. And on 13 December 1815, James Laird sold them on a bond of conveyance to Thomas Humphreys. The bond was not recorded so we do not know what the price was.

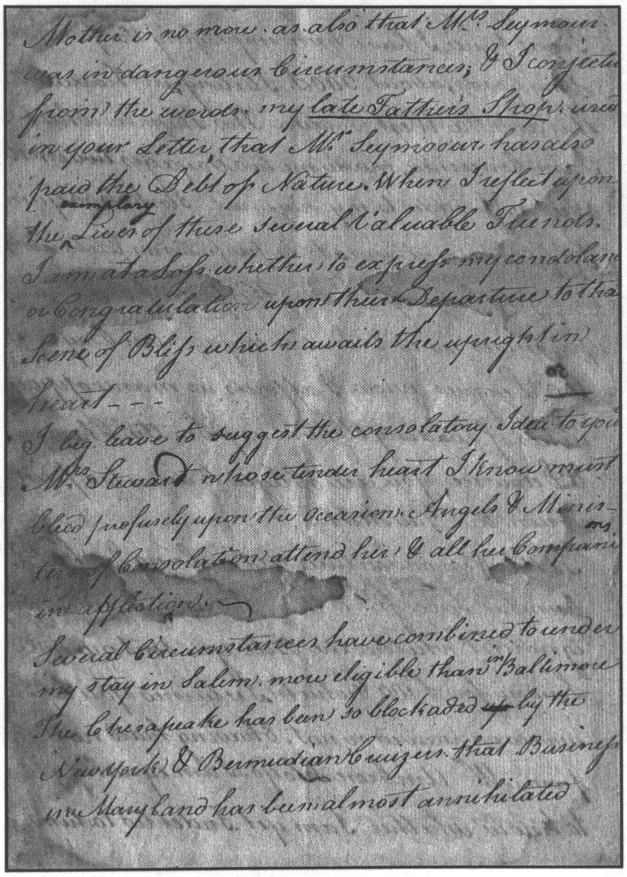
On 28 October 1815 James Fooks sold to Eben Christopher and Nathan Gordy four acres of land. The deed, if recorded, must have been in one of the few books lost in the fire of the early Worcester County courthouse. This must have been the four acres he inherited from his mother, Mary.

James Carey 1783 Letter

Earlier this fall, the Nabb Center had the opportunity to make an interesting acquisition – a 1783 letter written by James Carey, a revolutionary-era merchant from Baltimore and an emerging city leader. The date of the letter places this correspondence in a most interesting period of American History, the years at the end of the War for Independence.

In the letter, Carey wrote to a business associate encouraging him to send any cargo ships to ports in Massachusetts. According to Carey, the waters of the Chesapeake were too treacherous for American trade even still in 1783. British ships had continued to patrol the Bay, preventing American merchant ships from landing in Baltimore, Carey's home port. Although the last major battle of the Revolution had ended at Yorktown in October 1781, the two nations remained in a state of war until the final signing of the Treaty of Paris in fall 1783. Some cities experienced relative freedom to trade, while New York remained under British occupation and Baltimore was subject to harassment from British warships. The Carey letter gives fascinating insights into this particularly difficult period in the region.

The alert eye of Bea Hardy, the dean of Salisbury University Libraries, and a generous donation by Niel and Helen Carey, descendants of James Carey, enabled the Nabb Center to acquire this interesting letter.



Mother is no more, as also that Mr. Seymour
was in dangerous Circumstances; & I conjectu
from the words my late Father's Shop used
in your Letter, that Mr. Seymour has also
paid the Debt of Nature. When I reflect upon
the exemplary Lives of these several valuable Friends.
I am at a Loss whether to express my condolanc
or Congratulation upon their Departure to tha
Scene of Bliss which awaits the upright in
heart---
I beg leave to suggest the consolatory Idea to you
Mrs. Steward whose tender heart I know must
bleed profusely upon the occasion: Angels & Minis-
ters of Consolation attend her; & all her Companions
in affliction.
Several Circumstances have combined to under
my stay in Salem, more eligible than in Baltimore
The Chesapeake has been so blockaded ~~up~~ by the
New York & Bermudian Cruizers that Business
in Maryland has been almost annihilated

Barbados and the Connection with George Washington

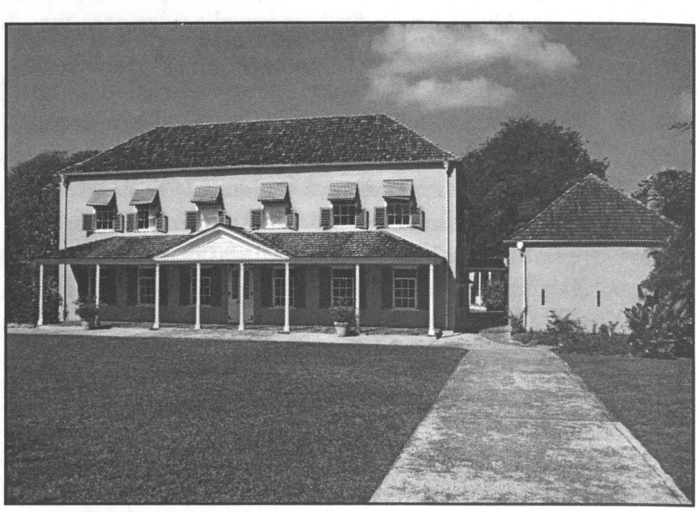
By Christine Murphy Richardson, M.Ed., M.S.Ed.

The familiar quoted phrase "Washington slept here" refers to George Washington's travels in colonial America and the early American republic and also has historical meaning in Barbados, West Indies, where he stayed for almost two months in 1751. He was 19 years old at the time and accompanied his half-brother Lawrence to the British colony of Barbados, which was the only time he traveled abroad. Lawrence was 14 years older than George and was the eldest surviving son of Augustine Washington and Jane Butler. After Jane died, Augustine married Mary Ball, and George was their first child. The half-brothers journeyed to Barbados with the hope that the mild climate would improve Lawrence's tuberculosis symptoms.

It was a six-week journey for George and Lawrence on the ship, probably the *Success*, before they arrived in the harbor of Carlisle Bay at Bridgetown, Barbados. Collector of Customs Gedney Clarke was to be the host to George and Lawrence. They had family links to the Clarkes, and Gedney Clarke owned 3,000 acres in northern Virginia. However, when they arrived, they were informed that Clarke's elegant home was plagued by smallpox, and George and Lawrence were advised to find a place to stay out of town. They rented a modest two-story Georgian-style house that overlooked Carlisle Bay and was owned by Captain Richard Crofton, who was the Commander of James Fort in Bridgetown. According to his diary, George Washington enjoyed staying in the house, which was situated on a prime location for watching ships sail in and out of the harbor. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Bridgetown was a major port at the center of commerce on the Atlantic Ocean. Ships plied the waters from London to Boston to Bridgetown and back; in any given month, hundreds of cargo vessels a day could be seen traveling the sea lanes near Carlisle Bay.

Formerly known as Bush Hill House, the dwelling that George and Lawrence rented became the George Washington House and Museum in 2007. The c.1719 plantation house along with its outbuildings and grounds are open to the public. The house has been restored by the Bush Hill Tourism Trust, Inc. in collaboration with the Barbados National Trust. Every Monday evening from January to April, the museum hosts a candlelight "Dinner with George," offering an 18th-century menu and choice of drink selections at a set price. Guests have the opportunity to eat and talk with "George Washington" in dinner-theater style. During the day from Monday to Friday, visitors can enjoy a tour of the house and grounds and explore a separate exhibit area on Barbados history with a focus on slavery.

Upon entering the house and looking immediately to the left, visitors can view what was George's bedroom during his stay. Among other items, it contains a replica travel trunk covered in goat hide and an early American chest-on-stand. To the right of the entrance was Lawrence's room with a wing chair, which helped make it easier for him to breathe sitting upright, and a book on display titled *Every Man His Own Doctor*. Health remedies include living in the open country rather the city because the breath of many people in a close place "doth putryfie the Air."



George Washington House Barbados

Visitors can see areas of flaking limestone walls in the house, as it was determined that they were in this condition in 1751. There is a separate kitchen showcasing redware pottery, a mortar and pestle, a spit for roasting meat over a fire, and a built-in baking oven equipped with a small warming oven at the bottom. A window to the rear of the kitchen was used for ventilation as well as for discarding garbage and other debris into a gulley that runs along the property.

Starting in 1999, archaeological digs in the gulley were done with the support of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation of Virginia, the Caribbean Preservation Institute of the University of Florida, students from the College of William and Mary, and other American and Barbadian participants. According to a tour guide, approximately 10,000 artifacts have been retrieved, which have aided in documenting the appearance of the house and the flow of household life during George and Lawrence's visit.

After touring the house with a guide, visitors are invited to explore a separate museum exhibition of colonial artifacts and panels presenting Barbados history in text, illustrations and audio. Emphasis is on the history of slavery in Barbados with artifacts such as a slave collar and chains evoking the horrors of the institution. A section of the exhibit makes a comparison between slavery in Barbados and Virginia. Interestingly, a visitor from the United States can learn about a part of Virginia history and George Washington's life that relates to 18th-century Barbados history.

At the time of the voyage to Barbados, George worked as a surveyor for Lord Thomas Fairfax, and in 1748, he had been appointed surveyor of the newly created County of Culpeper in the colony of Virginia. After arriving in Barbados, he was welcomed into society by British generals and admirals and visited fortifications through these connections. His own military career began shortly thereafter in 1752 when Lieutenant Governor Robert Dinwiddie of Virginia appointed him adjutant with the rank of major, and he later transferred to the Northern Neck and Eastern Shore with the responsibility of training the Northern District's militiamen

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.In spite of taking precautions in Barbados, Washington contracted smallpox and, after surviving the ordeal, developed immunity to the deadly disease. The importance of his recovery is evident and it enabled him as general and commander-in-chief of Continental forces during the American Revolution to combat smallpox epidemics among his soldiers. He ordered the first mass military inoculation to prevent smallpox as well as to lessen the effects of the disease on his soldiers. As part of the presentation for visitors, the George Washington House and Museum declares with pride that under attentive medical care in Barbados, George Washington survived and later became a key military leader of the American Revolution and the first president of the United States of America.

By the time of George's visit, a Sugar Revolution, which began in the 1650s, had taken hold in Barbados. Due to the production of this commodity and others, including "kill-devil" or rum, there were four slaves for every white person in Barbados. There were so many children born into slavery by the late 18th century, that it became the only island in the British West Indies to support the 1807 Act of Parliament abolishing the slave trade.

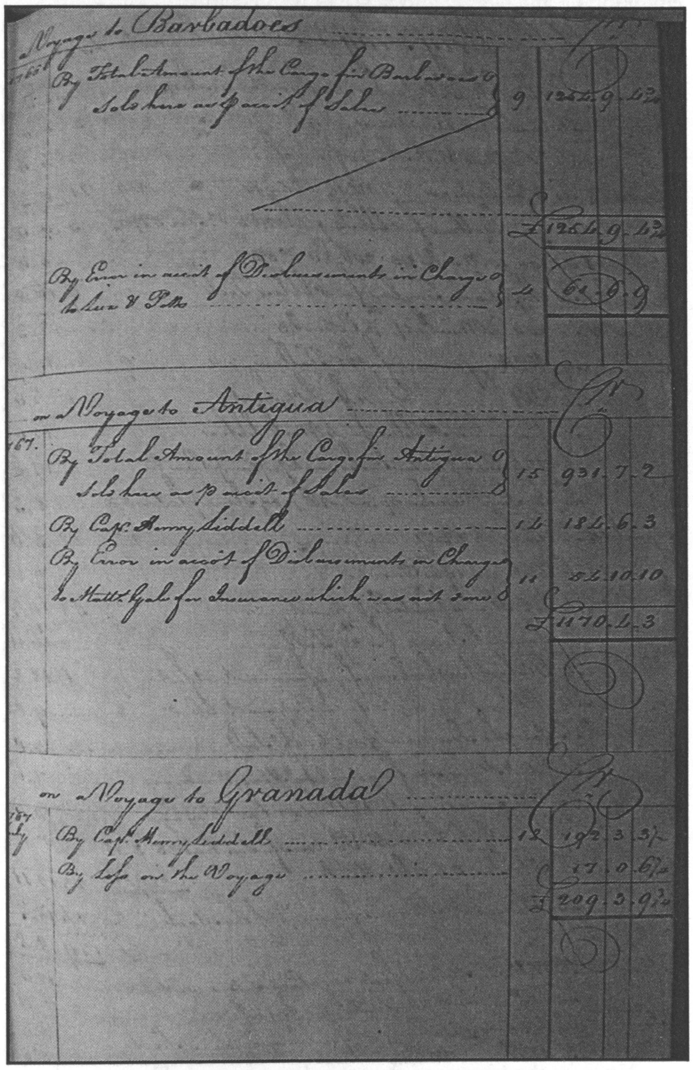
In Virginia, by 1744 for comparison, African Americans were about one-half of all tithable adults in Northampton County. The 1790 Census shows that approximately 50 percent of the Northampton County population was enslaved, while in the state of Virginia overall, the figure was about 39 percent of the population. This information indicates a lower proportion of slaves to the total population in Virginia than in Barbados. Even though chattel slavery was firmly established in the laws of Virginia by the end of the 17th century, according to the museum, there was much harsher subjugation and discipline by slave owners in Barbados because of the 4:1 ratio.

The exhibit highlights some of the criticism directed at George as a slave owner in Virginia for not freeing his slaves during his lifetime. For example, on display are excerpts of abolitionist Edward Rushton's 1797 "Expostulatory Letter to George Washington of Mt. Vernon in Virginia on His Continuing to be a Proprietor of Slaves," and a statement reveals George Washington's friend, the Marquis de Lafayette, never let him forget his responsibility to the ideals of "Liberty for All." The contradiction is apparent – George Washington was a liberator of his country fighting for the principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, yet he was simultaneously a slaveholder.

As a slave owner, George initially inherited 10 slaves from his father when he was a boy. In 1759, control of the "dower slaves" of his wife, Martha Dandridge Custis Washington, passed to him when they married. Lawrence's health did not improve in Barbados, and he died at Mt. Vernon in 1752. Under the terms of his brother Lawrence's will, George inherited the Mt. Vernon estate on the Potomac River in 1762 and began his responsibilities as a plantation owner reliant on slave labor. By the time of the American Revolution, George had considered ending slavery at Mt. Vernon, but he did not have the legal right to free the dower slaves because they were not his property; they belonged to the estate of Martha's first husband, Daniel Parke Custis.

The father of Daniel was wealthy John Custis IV, who inherited Arlington Plantation in Hungar's Parish, Northampton County, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. John IV resided there as a bachelor for seven years from 1699, and after he married, with his wife Frances Parke and children, although records show that by 1717, he was living in Williamsburg, Virginia. As a plantation owner of considerable property and money, John IV owned slaves, and advertisements in the *Virginia Gazette* show that he offered substantial rewards for run-away slaves. Until his death in 1750, he managed Arlington, other property on the Eastern Shore, property in Tidewater Virginia and property he acquired in England. According to specific instructions in his will, he was buried at Arlington.

When John IV died, Daniel inherited his estate. In 1757, Daniel died intestate, and his wife, then Martha Dandridge Custis, received one-third of his personal property, the use of one-third of his real estate and slaves for life and the management of the remaining two-thirds inheritance of the Custis children. Under existing law, control of property from the Custis estate passed to George after marrying Martha. Thus, George Washington became a very wealthy man through the sizable Custis estate and his own



Voyage to Barbadoes ... Cr

By Total Amount of the Cargo for Barbadoes Sold here as p account of Sales ... 9 1254.9.4¾

£1254.9.4¾

By Error in acco.t of Disbursements in Charges [illegible] & [illegible] ... 4 62.0.9

on a Voyage to Antigua ... Cr

1767. By Total Amount of the Cargo for Antigua Sold here as p account of Sales ... 15 931.7.2

By Capt. Henry Siddall ... 14 184.6.3

By Error in acco.t of Disbursements in Charges to Matt.w Gale for Insurance which was not done ... 11 54.10.10

£1170.4.3

on a Voyage to Granada ... Cr

By Capt. Henry Siddall ... 12 192.3.3¼

By Loss on the Voyage ... 17.0.6½

£209.3.9¾

Page from ledger of brig Peggy

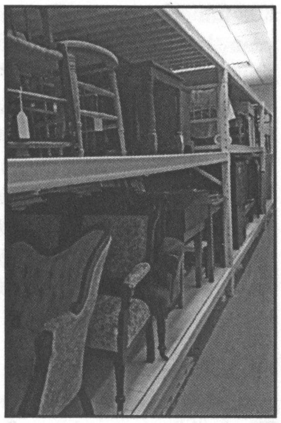
Note: An upcoming edition of the *Shoreline* will feature an article on the brig *Peggy* – a ship that carried cargo between the Wicomico River and the Caribbean in the 1760s.

Exhibits in the Guerrieri Academic Commons

By Janie Kreines, Exhibits & Artifacts Curator

The Guerrieri Academic Commons building provides a beautiful new home for the Edward H. Nabb Research Center's collection of artifacts. The storage space consists of 3,350 square feet that includes over 100 shelving units, three oversized cabinets and 19 racks for hanging artwork. The space is kept at a temperature between 68 and 72 degrees and 50 percent relative humidity (+/- 5 percent). These are the ideal conditions to maintain the artifacts and prevent them from deteriorating, cracking or developing mold.

Portrait storage area



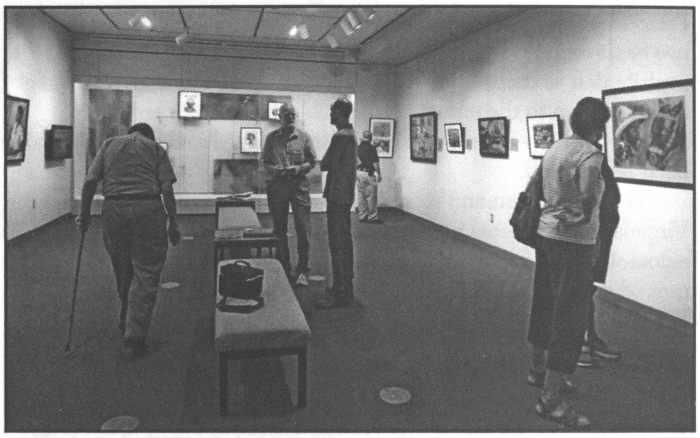
Artifact storage area

The new building also provides three amazing exhibit spaces to display the artifact collection and make them more accessible to the public. The Niemann Gallery, with approximately 650 square feet, consists of four large cases and multiple mobile cases. It currently houses the exhibit, "Delmarva: People, Place and Time," which is a brief introduction to the history of the Delmarva region. It starts with early history, highlighting the Native American tribes that inhabited the region and some of the evidence of their existence, including arrowheads and grinding stones. It also covers the arrival of European explorers and settlers and the process that ensued of claiming the land and writing land patents. The exhibit then moves into the influence of land and water in the region, including the crops and labor that have dominated the market, the jobs and food that they generated for locals as well as residents up and down the east coast. The next section focuses on family history, shining the spotlight on multiple families, homes, occupations and marriages of local residents that have influenced the region.

Edward and Barbara Niemann Exhibit

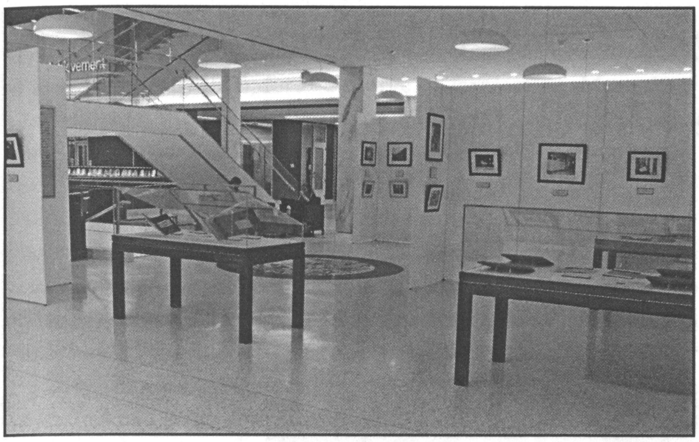
The largest case and focal point of the exhibit is on the early 19th century home, displaying the main room in which a typical family would have carried on most of its daily activities. This case includes a walking wheel, a linen press, a secretary desk, a corner cupboard, and many other tools and utensils that would have been found in the home. The center of the exhibit space displays military history from people around the region, including artifacts such as caps, dog tags and letters. This area also houses a case that highlights the University Archives collection, now part of the Nabb Research Center. This exhibit gives you a small taste of what the Nabb Center has to offer with the resources available in the reading room, the archival collection and the artifact collection.

The changing G. Ray Thompson Gallery consists of approximately 800 square feet with the ability to have additional wall space using Scenario walls. This space will change two to three times a year and will house exhibits that highlight the local history archival and artifact collections, University Archives, and student exhibitions. The exhibit "Ruth Starr Rose: Revelations of African American Life in Maryland and the World," featuring art that documents African-American life on the Eastern Shore in the 1930s and 40s, was on display in this space until December 2. The next exhibit, "The Stage Is Set: Leland Starnes and the Salisbury State Theatre," is scheduled to open on January 3 and will close on May 31. It will highlight the Salisbury State Theatre productions during the career of Leland Starnes, the director of the program from 1971 to 1979. This exhibit is a collaborative effort with Guest Curator Ian Post, the Nabb University archivist and Special Collections librarian, and Leland's widow, Mary Starnes.



G. Ray Thompson Gallery

The first-floor lobby exhibit space has approximately 900 square feet and is a blank canvas for a variety of exhibit displays. The opening exhibit, "Reservoirs of Strength, Grace and Wit: Libraries at Salisbury University," documented the history of the library at the College/University starting in 1925 to the present day. This exhibit was a collaborative effort with Guest Curator Ian Post. The next exhibit, "When Communities Come Together: African



First floor lobby exhibit area of Guerrieri Academic Commons

American Education on the Eastern Shore," is scheduled to open on January 3 and will close on May 31. It will focus on the educational challenges and triumphs for African-Americans on the Eastern Shore. This exhibit is a collaborative effort with Guest Curators Artura Jackson (History Department graduate assistant) and Matthew Lewis (Public Humanities Program graduate assistant). This space also will be used in the future for collaborative projects with the library staff, highlighting books, student projects or organizations and upcoming events.

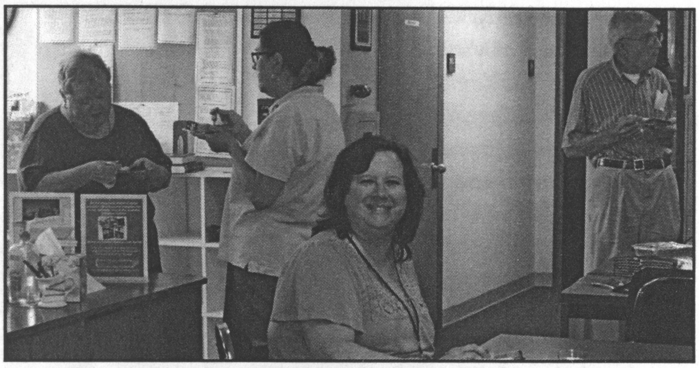
The new building and the ability to highlight the collections available at the Edward H. Nabb Research Center are an amazing opportunity for the students, faculty and community members to benefit from these resources. We hope you will stop by to enjoy the exhibits and search our artifact collection online!

Fond Farewells and Welcomes:

Changes in the Reception Area

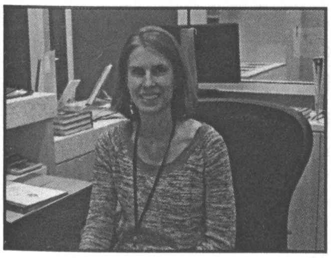
This past summer, we said farewell to Leigh Anne Roye and Pilar Burton, our two receptionists. Leigh Anne began working at the Nabb Center in 2013. She was well known by our patrons and students for her calm presence and her quiet, helpful manner. Leigh Anne and her husband Terry have moved to their home state of Texas where Terry has taken on a project leadership position at Texas A & M. Pilar was an undergraduate history major and history M.A. student at Salisbury University before starting her service at the Nabb Center in 2010. She is well known for her wide-ranging knowledge of genealogical resources at the Nabb Center and in the greater area. Many family researchers have benefitted from Pilar's assistance in overcoming obstacles in their progress. Pilar made the decision in late August to take a full-time position near her home in Worcester County. We will miss Leigh Anne and Pilar and we wish them the best in their future pursuits.

We welcome to the reception desk Barbara Weiss and Nicole Rogers. Barbara has worked at the Nabb Center digitizing archival records for the past two years. She continues that work now, but she also has taken on the duties of the reception desk. Nicole joined the staff in early October. She brings many years of reception and office management experience. We are very fortunate that we were able to hire Barbara and Nicole relatively early in the process of settling into the new facility. Both have done a fantastic job assisting students and patrons in learning the new locker system and pointing them in the right direction either for classes or towards the pertinent sources in the Research Room.



Volunteers Cathy Hudson, Aleta Davis and Joe Ballou with Leigh Anne Roye (seated)

We also say goodbye to Artura Jackson, our graduate assistant for the past two years. Artura graduated with a B. A. in history in 2014 before entering our graduate program as a Nabb Center graduate assistant. During her time at the Nabb Center, Artura has worked on numerous archival processing projects under the direction of Archivist Leslie McRoberts, and recently, she has devoted time to conceptualizing and developing our upcoming exhibit on African American education on Delmarva after the Civil War. Now, Artura has put the finishing touches on her master's thesis on Gloria Richardson. We wish her the absolute best as she seeks a job in public history. Artura, we will miss you.



Barbara Weiss

Nicole Rogers

Pilar Burton

Artura Jackson

First Comes Love, Then Comes Marriage:

The Role of Marriage in 17th-Century Virginia

By Valerie Abbott

At the age of 68, Walter Price threw his wife out of the house. He was done and ready for her to leave home. In May 1675, the Northampton County Court did not agree. Once his wife raised the issue before the court, Price was ordered to take her back and provide her with food and shelter. According to scholars Lois Carr and Lorena Walsh, "In the politics of family life women enjoyed great respect" in the 17th century. That authority within the home extended to the Northampton County Court on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Ultimately, court officials rejected Price's unhappiness as a suitable reason for ending the marriage. "Till death do us part" was taken quite literally. On the same day, Price's daughter, Frances, appeared before the court on a charge of fornication. What might seem like a family consumed in a whirlwind of trouble actually reflected many of the social norms of Northampton County, VA, between the years of 1640 and 1670. Thus, the Price family's troubles might be viewed as emblematic of larger issues within Virginia that relate to colonial practices of marriage and family rearing.

Walter Price's journey began in 1642, when he reached the New World as a servant indentured to Fraunces Yeardley. Like many others, he arrived under the headright system. The average length of service for an indentured servant was between five and seven years. While there is no information regarding his release, Price began playing an active role in the community just two and a half years after his arrival. In 1644, he worked as both an appraiser and a shipwright. His first client was the widow Hanna Mountney, who was able to employ his services because she had assumed her husband's responsibilities upon his death. Historian Kathleen Brown argued, "Married women generally enjoyed more respectful treatment than their unmarried counterparts." Due to her widow status, she was viewed as capable of making her own business decisions.

Price's work as an appraiser is well documented in the court records, and by extension so too is his family's life. Historian James Perry explained, "Kin relied on one another for everyday support as well as in emergency." This meant that any struggle of Walter's was also a struggle of his kin. Between 1640-1670, people in Northampton County, VA, often married for personal gain, not necessarily affection. Furthermore, because family kinships were necessary to survive, men and women remarried often, primarily for the political and economic advantages marriage provided. The experiences of Walter Price and his family illustrate these themes well.

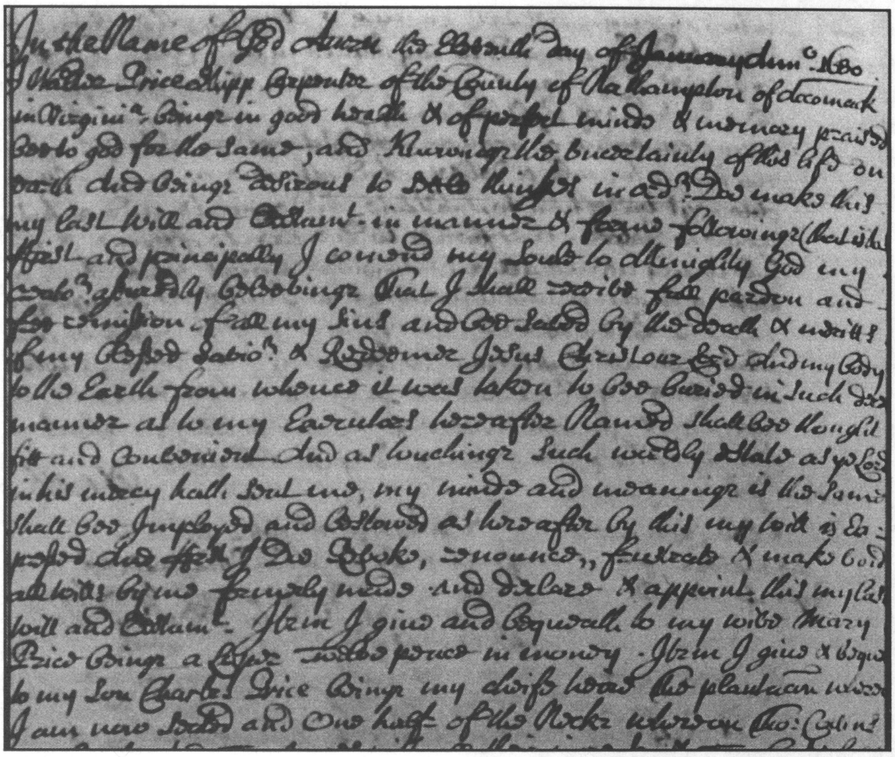
Why was marrying well, or at all, so difficult and important? The answer can be found in Virginia's earliest history. The colony was created by the Virginia Company of London in 1607. Once established, the colony ran into a seemingly obvious problem: The first settlers were all men. According to historian Kathleen Brown: "Company officials viewed the establishment of familial households as a means of rendering male laborers more tractable and transforming the temporary military and commercial outpost into a thriving settlement." They attempted to fix this problem by shipping women to the fledgling colony. They even went as far as to pay for their transportation. The women were viewed as a valuable commodity, as they were listed as cargo, not as passengers. "If [the women] marry to the public farmers [tenants]," Company Treasurer Edwin Sandys explained, then they were "to be transported at the charges of the Company. If otherwise, then those that takes them to wife to pay the said Company their charges for transportation." They recognized that men of all economic classes needed wives.

With only a third of the population female, competition among males for marriage was often intense. With this in mind, the courts were strict in handling marital issues. They believed that "unregulated marriage threatened family estates. ... It also undermined Virginia's fragile class hierarchy." With such a gender imbalance, marriage was not to be wasted frivolously. Colonial Virginians believed that "perhaps the most important charge of the ministers was their duty to regulate marriage."

In fact, according to Brown, "the colonial government placed themselves at the center of the regulatory process." With such a tight grasp on marriage in the colony, it is easy to see the importance of marrying well.

The early generations of women settlers arrived in Virginia through the headright system and worked their allotted five to seven years, like the men. According to historians Carr and Walsh: "Once a woman became free, however, marriage was clearly the usual solution," to securing stability. Thus, "the women were a little older; the great majority were between eighteen and twenty-five, and half were aged twenty to twenty-two." This means that after their servitude, they were quite mature in terms of colonial age. This did not lower their chances of marriage, as they made up the majority of eligible females. Kathleen Brown argued: "Many English women found that life as a colonial good wife offered considerable benefits and opportunities for community influence." They were able to move up in the world through marriage. It was very important that they sustain their marriage well, because according to Brown, society believed "women were either 'good wives' or 'nasty wenches.'" They could not afford to be viewed by their community as anything less than a respectable wife.

The case of Frances Price illustrates how society viewed women who acted outside the expected norms. She was brought to trial on May 5, 1675, for the charge of fornication. More than a month later, she was found to have had a child and sent to jail. She told the courts that she had been impregnated in Accomack County and gave birth to the baby in Maryland. She then returned home and was charged with the crimes. In fact, it was imperative to their survival that colonists hold the parents of out-of-wedlock children accountable for their actions; otherwise, the parish would bear the burden of caring and providing for the child. Historian John Pagan explained why the collective population so opposed bastardry: "Taxpayers wanted to deter out-of-wedlock births because they feared the parents might not support their illegitimate offspring, rendering the children 'chargable to the parish.'"



1683 will of Walter Price: Northampton County Court Records Wills, Orders, XIII, No. 11 1679-1683 f. 262
Leaving his wife, "Mary being a lofer twelve pence in money."

Oftentimes these children were indentured at a very young age. This provided the colony with laborers, and the parish did not have to support the cost of the child. Frances Price did not have the money to support her child, and there was no partner mentioned; therefore, she was jailed until she had the funds to support the child or the child had been bound out in servitude. "A father typically had to make weekly payments to the churchwardens 'towards the Relief of [the] Bastard Child' until the child reached the age of seven and became eligible to be bound out as an apprentice or servant." With so many laborers required in the colony, bastard children were often used as indentured servants. Yet, they were required to serve until the age of 24.

While we know that she ultimately married, it is unclear what happened to Frances after she had her baby; neither the baby's father nor her eventual husband is identified in the historical record. Frances' father left nothing to his son-in-law in his will, leading us to believe he was either absent or disliked. The fact that Frances was able to marry after having a child suggests the practical aspects of marriage. The lack of information on Frances' husband illustrates the unstable nature of colonial marriage. They came and went, people married and remarried so frequently that it is often difficult to track changes in marital status especially considering that not all records have survived.

Marriage established kinship, which played a central role in colonial society. It decided where people settled in the New World and helped them survive in difficult times. According to historian James Perry: "Relatives provided help in time of need, and they supported their kin on a daily basis by providing sociability, favors, and economic exchanges." After making the treacherous journey to the New World, it was natural for them to seek guidance from a familiar face. "These ties of kinship influenced the decision of where to acquire a first landholding." Settling down next to family seemed like a prudent choice when living in such a new and dangerous place. This can be seen throughout the records of Northampton: "with very few exceptions, a new landholder with relatives already on the Eastern Shore located on either an adjacent tract or on one nearby." With families in such close proximity to one another, they were able to help each other out in times of trouble. "High mortality, a preponderance of men in the population, and a late age of marriage had a powerful influence," Perry explained, "particularly on the formation and continuance of ties of kinship." People were not able to simply restrict their kin to those related by blood; because of the enormous chance of death, peoples' families were filled with half-siblings, or parent-like figures. Families were always there to help out because they were "aware that they too might die at an early age, [and] knew that their families might need such help someday." People were investing in their own future by securing safety for their families; it functioned as an early version of life insurance.

While married, women were always aware of the possibility, and probability, of losing their husbands to death, particularly since New World conditions limited the lifespans of early colonists. Women could expect their partners to live for approximately seven years beyond their date of marriage, with the chance that only one out of three marriages would extend beyond 10 years. "For many female immigrants who had come to the colony in hopes of raising their fortunes through marriage," historian Kathleen Brown contended, "maintaining amicable relationships with men other than their current husbands was simply an investment in their future." Women quickly remarried to survive. Likewise, men were aware of the need for a spouse, especially since they needed a wife in order to transfer their property upon their death. With the odds stacked against them, people needed to be prepared for a fatality in the family.

Remarriage was common on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Hannah Mountney, Price's first client as an appraiser, was exceptional in that she took a longer time to re-marry. She waited over 10 years after the death of her husband, Alexander, before she remarried. Modern sensibilities might lead us to conclude that Hannah required time to grieve the death of her husband, but evidence suggests otherwise. Hannah probably did not remarry because she had already accumulated the wealth needed to survive. At 40 years of age, without any young children for whom to care, she continued to manage her own wealth after her husband's passing. This furthermore suggests that individuals married and remarried for social status and wealth.

In the case of Walter Price, we can see that this was not always the case. Looking at a larger group, much can be deciphered from wills. Oftentimes, husbands left their wives large parcels of land, or even entire estates. I believe this is not out of love for their widows, but to offer security to their children. Young, dying fathers felt responsible for the continued security of their families and often believed their wives were most capable of running their estates because of the young age of their children. It was the final business transaction of their marriages, one that stretched beyond the grave.

For Walter Price, perhaps this explains his marriage to the "loafer," Mary. His first wife, Frances, died in 1661. This placed him at about 54 years of age. There is no record of him marrying his second wife, Mary, but it probably happened very soon after Frances' death. "Remarriage on the Eastern Shore, as well as elsewhere on the Chesapeake," Perry explained, "usually took place within a year and almost never more than two years after the death of a spouse." The quick turnaround from widow to wife indicates that the death of a spouse could lead to "moving up" through marriage.

Walter Price's "Last Will and Testament" illustrates how property and prestige passed from generation to generation through the institution of marriage (and remarriage). It also explains how husbands attempted to control the transfer of their property upon their death. What courts would not break during life, Price would fix in death. Price passed on at the age of 78 and left his estate to five grandchildren, three children and a son-in-law. In the second line of his will, Price outlined the pitiful amount that he would leave to his "loafer" wife. He furthermore explained that she received such a pittance due to her lowly status. Originally, the family believed that Walter Price died without leaving a will. His wife Mary petitioned the court to run the estate, and the courts granted her that ability. But, Price's children believed that their deceased father would not have wanted Mary to hold such power in the community based on their father's estate. A year later, the family discovered the will, and his estate was divided, as he desired. This information leads us to believe Mary hid the will out of a desire to keep his estate, as she knew he left her very little. Even in death, the roles of marriage and remarriage were viewed as a means to transfer power and property.

Northampton County, VA, from the years of 1640-1670, was a unique place and time in colonial history. Due to the unequal ratio of males to females, women experienced an unprecedented level of influence and power because of external forces. As the ratio began to even out, this phenomenon slowly dissolved. Carr explained, "What in the seventeenth century may have been a period of comparative independence for women, both immigrant and native, may have given way to a return to more traditional European social controls over the creation of new families." I believe traces of this independence continued throughout colonial Virginia. While women may not have had their pick of all the men, they were still able to support their families should their husbands pass. Lois Carr agreed, saying "Possibly, then, women did not lose ground, or at least not all ground, within the family polity." Walter Price illuminates the ins and outs of colonial marriage. He had a wife that never let him get any peace, but he seemed to get the last word, even if it had to be from the grave.

Valerie Abbott is a sophomore history - secondary education major from Stevensville, MD. She is a student in the Thomas E. Bellevance Honors Program.

Volunteer Corner

As always, we thank our volunteers for their commitment to the Nabb Center. Since our move to the new facility, several "regulars" have helped by working in the Carey Research Room on Monday evenings, transcribing sources, assisting with research requests and serving as docents for the Ruth Starr Rose exhibit in the Thompson Gallery. Truly, we could not maintain our level of service without the selfless devotion of our volunteers.

University Archives and Special Collections

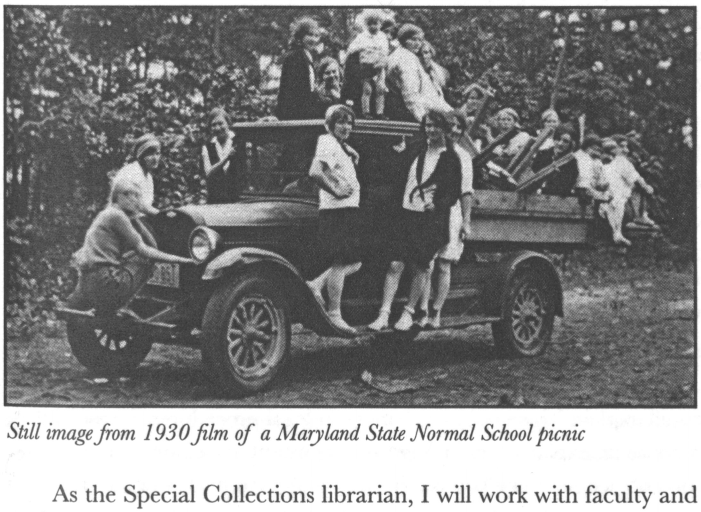
By Ian Post, University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian

As the University archivist, I preserve, collect and make accessible the historical materials related to Salisbury University since its founding as the Maryland State Normal School in 1925. Included in the archives are yearbooks and publications, photographs and film, departmental records and faculty papers, and student theses that SU (as well as SNS, SSC and SSU) students created. My main initiative since beginning in May has been making collections accessible to the SU community.

Raising awareness of the collections has been the first stage to make collections accessible. So far I've worked with the exhibits curator on two exhibits – a retrospective about the history of the libraries at SU on the first floor of the Guerrieri Academic Commons and a general University Archives case within the "Delmarva: People, Place and Time" exhibit outside of the Nabb Center. Opening in January in the G. Ray Thompson Gallery will be "The Stage Is Set: Leland Starnes and the Salisbury State Theatre," which will draw from the Leland Starnes papers that document the school's theatrical productions from 1972-1980.

The second stage for access is making each collection available. Many collections in the University Archives were in rough condition, not inventoried or not described according to current archival standards. The finding aids – a document that tells users exactly what is available – that result from processing these collections can now be found on the University Archives' revitalized website and used to assist in requesting specific items or collections.

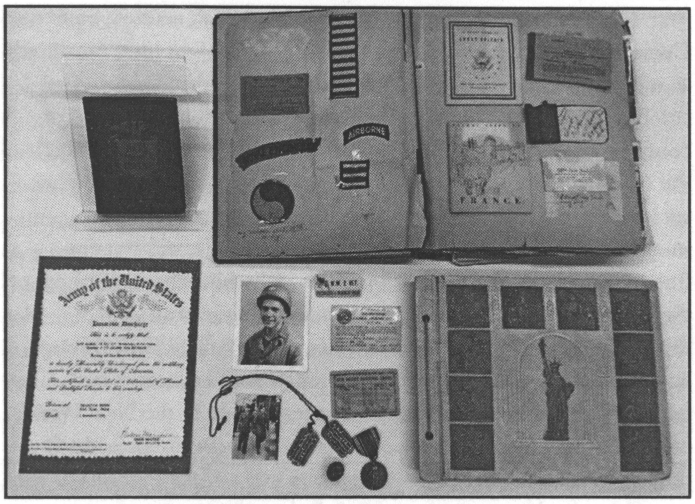
An emerging and popular tool – digital resources – has become the third stage for access. Two key resources from the University Archives that are in different stages of digitization include the *Holly Leaf*, the school's newspaper from 1926 to 1970, and the *Evergreen*, the school's yearbook from 1926 to 2005. The *Holly Leaf* is available now at: https://mdsoar.org/handle/11603/3300 and the *Evergreen* will be online in 2017. Additionally, several 16 mm films that were digitized and date from 1928 to 1954 will also be available online.



Still image from 1930 film of a Maryland State Normal School picnic

As the Special Collections librarian, I will work with faculty and students to promote research on the rare and unique items in the Special Collections. These personal diaries, minutes of organizations, race-related postcards, photographs, graphic arts and ephemeral items tell the stories of American people in the 19th and 20th centuries.

One example of a special collection is the Luis Alaniz Collection, which documents the life of a Mexican-American soldier during the Second World War. Born October 28, 1922, in Dallas, TX, Alaniz enlisted in the United States Army on September 10, 1940. Initially a medical technician, he was promoted to corporal in 1942 and was later a technician in the 755th Railway Shop Battalion. Alaniz was sent to Europe (France and Belgium) on December 5, 1943, and returned home on October 5, 1945. During his time on the home front and abroad, Alaniz used his camera to capture scenes of his life and collected memorabilia that now reflect his personal experiences. Through dozens of photographs, two scrapbooks, a diary and artifacts in the collection, students and researchers alike can begin to piece together a biography of Alaniz.



Luis Alaniz Collection

The greatest task with these special collections – as with University Archives – is making them accessible to the SU community. The special collections website currently lists 210 brief finding aids, which constitutes about 52 percent of the total collections. The current interface for these descriptions is only a temporary solution, but allows users to browse and search within descriptions that did not previously exist. In order to improve the interface, the technology librarian and I have been developing a sophisticated database that will assist tremendously with collection discovery with features such as subject browsing, text string searching and exploration within date ranges.

Look for new descriptions of the items in both University Archives and Special Collections on the website at www.salisbury.edu/library/archives.

Ian Post joined the Nabb Center staff in May 2016. He is the University archivist and special collections librarian.

The Life of John Vigorous:

The Practice of Surgery and the Pursuit of Social Status in Late 17th Century Somerset County

By Amy Vennos

In June 1676, John Vigorous brought John Anderson to court over "four hundred pounds of tobacco which [Anderson] owes and unjustly detaineth." In September of that same year, Vigorous took another man, Lawrence Gerry, to court for a separate unpaid debt. These instances were but a few of many, as Vigorous' name frequently appeared in the Somerset County court records. But why? He was not an attorney, nor did his occupation require him to appear before the court. Yet, his name appears often in the court records – on inventories, land transactions, witness statements and more. On paper and in practice, Vigorous served the Somerset community as a chirurgeon (or surgeon), but his ambitious pursuit to be deemed a gentleman in the Somerset community meant that he appeared quite frequently before the court.

To understand the medical world of late 17th century Somerset County and to understand why John Vigorous might have appeared so often in the courts, one must first understand the 17th century colonial healthcare system. A thin line separated two of the most common male medical careers: physician and chirurgeon. Though the two had almost the same duties, physicians had a much higher social status than chirurgeons. In fact, chirurgeons prescribed medicine just as frequently as physicians did, while still treating fractures, wounds and dislocations. The only thing that separated physicians and chirurgeons was education: physicians learned through academic pursuits, while chirurgeons gained skills through apprenticeships. This sounds like an unfair social practice, but because there were not as many educated people in the New World, colonists might have placed more trust in a healthcare provider if they knew he had a formal education.

Other healthcare trades existed during this time and in this area. Nurses worked mainly to help physicians and chirurgeons, doing chores like washing linens to make patients feel more comfortable. They also buried the dead and arranged funerals for patients that perished. Barbers were also known to perform some healing procedures such as phlebotomies, a minor practice of drawing blood from a patient. Midwives also often performed healing procedures in addition to the work of assisting in the birth process.

Colonists lacked immunities to pathogens in their new environment and, therefore, became easy targets for disease. For example, according to Thomas Hughes, a historian of medicine in colonial Virginia, a sailor with smallpox arrived at Accomack County, VA, in 1667, and was "solely responsible for the outbreak of a terrible epidemic on the Eastern Shore." Again, smallpox "caused such a scare in 1696" that an assembly was called out of concern for the dire situation. Also, knowledge of medicine was limited in this time period, and many diseases "were unknown to the settlers. ... Undiagnosable [sic] diseases were usually put in general terms: 'distemper' for appendicitis and 'falling sickness' for epilepsy." Considering the sensitivity of colonists to their new surroundings and limited knowledge of the reasons for their symptoms, one can see the need for chirurgeons even without the social prestige that physicians possessed. The widespread diseases with terrible effects must have given colonists a sense of urgency when feeling ill. The need for medical attention at times must have driven colonists to turn to chirurgeons as well as physicians to receive treatment.

The Somerset County community on the Eastern Shore of Maryland provided a particular context within which Vigorous operated. The county, named after Lady Somerset, the sister of Anne Arundel, the Second Lord Baltimore's wife, was created on August 22, 1666, "For the ease and benefit of the people of this province & the speedy and more exact administration of Justice." The county was "bounded South with a line from Watkin's Point (being the north point of that bay into which the River Wico formerly called Wighcocomoco afterwards Pocomoke & Wighcocomoco againe, doth fall exclusively) to the Ocean on the east; Nanticoke River on the North & the Sound of the Chesipeake Bay on the West." The first settlers were mostly from Northampton-Accomack on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Vigorous' whereabouts prior to his arrival in Somerset County are unclear, but he must have arrived between 1666 and 1670.

The first three chirurgeons of Somerset County – Thomas Walley, John Rhodes and George Hasfurt – might provide some insight into Vigorous' grand ambitions. Hasfurt lived in Northampton County, VA, as an indentured servant to John Custis. After his indenture, he became interested in the practice of medicine and became a chirurgeon. Later, he moved to Somerset County to further his medical practice. He was eventually successful; and in 1675, he purchased a plantation on Morumsco Creek. John Rhodes, who lived in Somerset County from 1663-1672, was "the first of the medical profession" in the county. Walley, also a chirurgeon in Somerset, moved to Calvert County in 1668. All of these men were "chirurgeons as well as planters." This could explain Vigorous' decision to relocate to Somerset County in the first place; Vigorous very well could have heard about these chirurgeons-turned-planters and resolved to follow in their footsteps.

If ambition led Vigorous to practice in Somerset County, it also could explain Vigorous' involvement in legal procedures. It would also serve as an explanation for Vigorous' constant association with upper-sorts of people in the county. He was witness to numerous land transactions with well-to-do people like large landholders, colonels and lawyers. Though witnessing a transaction might seem like a minor role, witnesses were usually as close as neighbors and family to the land grantors and grantees. Vigorous probably had strong ties to those involved in the transactions, meaning he must have made an effort to familiarize himself with a prosperous crowd. This would help him gain recognition, and, in the long run more clients.

Because business was not always booming for a colonial chirurgeon, and the job was not as stable as one would have hoped, Vigorous appears to have begun seeking other ways to add a source of income. On average Vigorous witnessed one or two land transactions per year, but this changed dramatically in the year 1683, when the chirurgeon was involved in six transactions. A plausible explanation for this anomaly is that Vigorous did not have enough patients and therefore had both the time and the motivation to expand his network of associates to establish ties with more successful people who might help expand his practice and possibly begin acquiring land to become a planter.

In 1689, the chirurgeon took three men – Robert Perry, John Smock and William Richardson – to court to obtain items that he thought were his wife Anne's property. He sued Perry for "eight gallons of Rum which [Perry] unjustly detaineth." Vigorous must have been very precise about what he was owed.

Vigorous may have learned this legal aggressiveness from his profession. He often initiated proceedings against patients who received treatment but did not pay for services. Perhaps to set an example for his other patients, Vigorous took debtors to court to make a public record of what they owed. Over a period of two years, Vigorous took four of these colonists to court and used aggressive tactics in hopes of winning these cases. In June 1688, Vigorous sued Lawrence Crawford for debts incurred through the services of "lett[ing] blood lynch (20 lbs tob), powder for ye children (120 lbs tob), a dozen of 'mith rodate' for your wife Augusta to a dose of amber and corn (150 lbs tob), [and] to a purge & vomit for your self (60 lbs tob)" The following July of the same year, Vigorous made the same complaint against Col. William Coulbourne for 200 pounds of tobacco for "3 clisters, one [bottle], and journey." In this case, Vigorous brought two witnesses to support him: Charles Hall and Robert Coulbourne. He may have believed that he needed the support of two witnesses due to the high status of Coulbourne. On July 25, 1689, Vigorous took Mr. Benjamine Keizer to Court for not paying for "a dose of pills, a dose of physic … 4 donnalitive pills, purging pectoral syrup," and a "chinna cup" as well as his "visits & attendance both times of [Keizer's] sickness at Rehobeth," totaling 1,162 pounds of tobacco. Soon after, Vigorous brought a man, Walter Lane, to court for not paying "a dormalative pill, two large plaisters of Mitheridate for many takings," and "visits and advice and attendance," amounting to 430 pounds of tobacco. In each of the cases, Vigorous specifically noted the exact values of each item and summed the numbers to provide an argument that seems more logical. It is unclear if the chirurgeon won these cases or not, but Vigorous' numerical specifications and support from witnesses show that he put a fair amount of time into developing a strategy for being reimbursed for debts owed to him.

Vigorous also engaged in other activities that likely raised his stature in Somerset County. On August 6, 1692, he was witness to a gifting "of cows to children" of the Lowes family. The year before, the chirurgeon was a surety of Richard Hill, meaning that he was responsible for ensuring Hill's appearance in court or paying "100 sterling." This may be confusing at first, since Vigorous volunteered to guarantee such money. However, since an increased social status might eventually lead to increased financial rewards, gaining the trust of fellow colonists might have motivated Vigorous' action in these cases.

In the end, it is unclear if the chirurgeon's status rose significantly over time. That Vigorous owned a growing number of livestock is one indication of increasing wealth. He registered a private mark for identifying his cattle: "his mark [being] cropt & slitt & overbitted on the right ear one hole and overbitted on the left ear." However, his family only came into this cattle, when they inherited the livestock through the death of his wife Anne's mother in 1688. These livestock might have helped the family increase its financial security. It also appears that the family inherited some land through this bequest. Unfortunately, there is little other evidence that Vigorous was able to build his wealth further. Vigorous disappears from Somerset court records in the early 1700s, perhaps because he found more opportunities elsewhere or maybe because of death. Nevertheless, Vigorous came to Somerset County hoping to increase his and his family's prosperity. As a chirugeon he certainly came into contact with many people, and it appears that some of his patients or associates trusted him as a witness in their transactions. It may be that John Vigorous' story is similar to the ones of other colonial chirurgeons practicing in the late seventeenth century colonial America; not only could they be chirurgeons, but they could push the boundaries of their careers to build a more secure place for themselves in society.

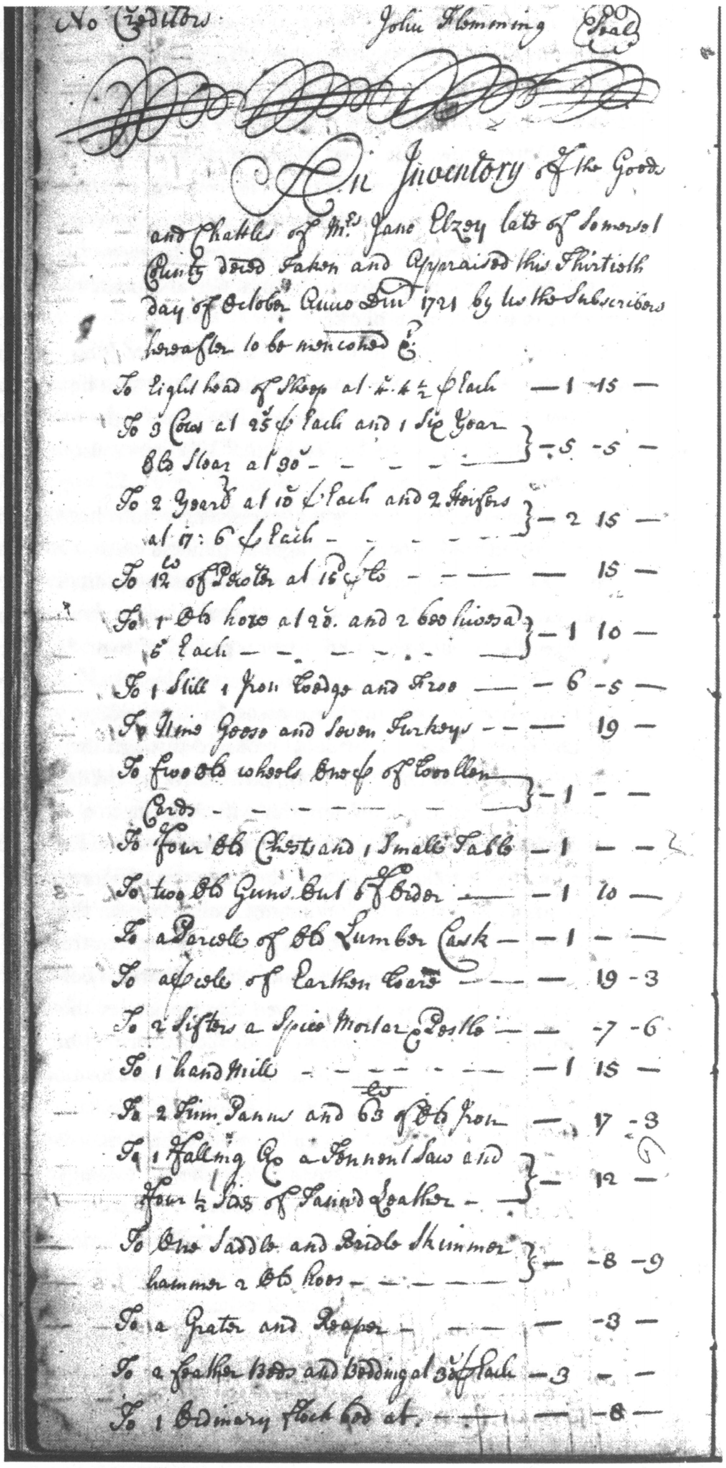
Amy Vennos is a sophomore mathematics major from Salisbury, MD. She is a student in the Thomas E. Bellevance Honors Program.

Women with Probate in Colonial Maryland

By Aaron Horner

The concept of creating a database focusing on women with probate in colonial Maryland stemmed from an inventory research exercise used by an American History course here at Salisbury University for many years. This exercise requires a student to compare and contrast two 17th-century inventories, one chosen from a set of pre-selected transcribed documents and the other directly from a roll of microfilm. Students choosing to compare the inventories of two women often faced difficulty in finding inventories in the original records. Women with probate typically were either widowed or unmarried; a woman who predeceased her husband would not leave any probate. I had the idea of creating a list of names of females who owned estates; putting together such a list would dramatically cut down the time lost for students whose time is limited due to other course work.

With this plan, I began taking data from abstracts and inputting it into a database. Currently, the database consists of the following fields: name of the individual, social status (if applicable), the approximate date of death (year), the county in which the individual resided at the time of death, the value of the inventory (in pounds Maryland currency) and the location of the record (book and page). In time, I may add other types of probate data such as wills, administration bonds and administration accounts. One of the challenges faced with this project includes the absence of data. For example, the inventory may not state the county in which the individual resided; in cases like this, I have consulted other sources. Originally, the database stopped at the year 1700. By extending the database to include the entire colonial period, it can be used for other class assignments. Although the database is not yet complete, there are approximately 850 inventories dating from 1674 to 1743. As more students and community researchers visit the Nabb Center in our new facility, I expect this database and others that I plan to develop will be helpful for a variety of research needs.



No Creditors   John Flemming (Seal)

An Inventory of the Goods and Chattles of Mrs Jane Elzey late of Somerset County decd Taken and Appraised this Thirtieth day of October Anno Dni 1721 by us the Subscribers hereafter to be mencioned &c

To Eight head of Sheep at 4.4½ p each	1	15	—
To 3 Cows at 25s p each and 1 Six Year Old Steer at 30s	5	5	—
To 2 Yearlings at 10s p each and 2 Heifers at 17:6 p each	2	15	—
To 12lb of Pewter at 16d p lb	—	15	—
To 1 Old horse at 20s. and 2 Old horses at 5s each	1	10	—
To 1 Still 1 Iron Wedge and Frow	6	5	—
To Nine Geese and Seven Turkeys	—	19	—
To five Old wheels One p of Woollen Cards	1	—	—
To four Old Chests and 1 Small Table	1	—	—
To two Old Guns Out of Order	1	10	—
To a Parcel of Old Lumber Cask	1	—	—
To a Parcel of Earthen Ware	—	19	3
To 2 Sifters a Spice Mortar & Pestle	—	7	6
To 1 hand Mill	1	15	—
To 2 Tin Pans and 63lb of Old Iron	—	17	3
To 1 Falling Ax a Tennent Saw and four ½ Sides of Tanned Leather	—	12	—
To One Saddle and Bridle Skimmer hammer & Old Hoes	—	8	9
To a Grater and Rasper	—	3	—
To a feather Bed and Bedding at 30s p each	3	—	—
To 1 Ordinary flock bed at	—	8	—

Probate inventory of Jane Elzey 30 October 1721
Maryland Prerogative Court, Inventories, 1721-1722, Liber 7, folio 14-15

Non-Partisan and Proud:

Records of the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Shore

By Leslie VanVeen McRoberts, Local History Archivist

The Nabb Center's Local History Archives documents and preserves the history of Delmarva from Mid-Shore Maryland and Delaware south through the Eastern Shore of Virginia, including the records of local politicians and political organizations.

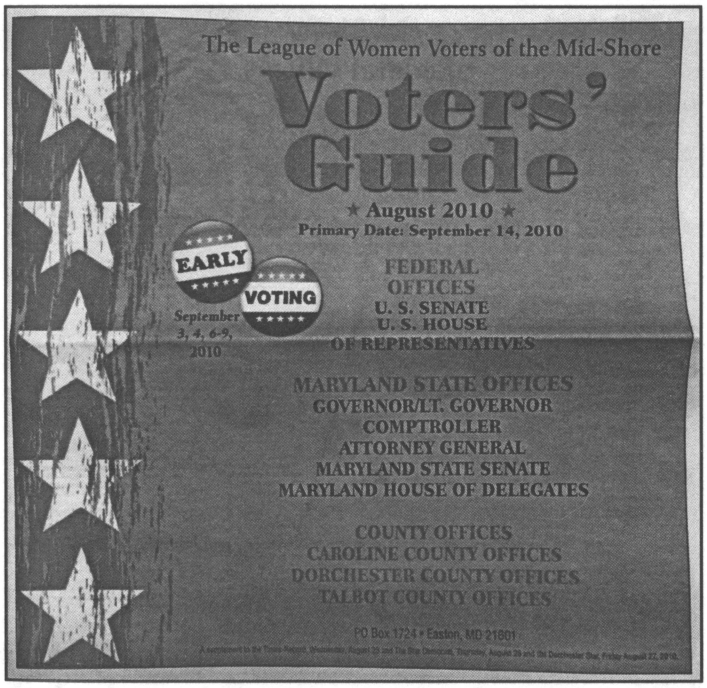
Today, as we reflect on the political fervor that has swept our nation, it is important to recollect or reflect on the organizations that have so diligently maintained and helped obtain our rights. The Nabb Research Center acquired the records of the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Shore in spring 2015. The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Shore has been working as an organization since the early 1970s to encourage women to participate in public affairs and elections. The non-partisan, multi-issue group is open to participants from Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot counties, and it originated in Talbot. The League was originally formed on a national level in 1920 as a political experiment a few months prior to the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which prohibits any United States citizen from being denied the right to vote based on gender.

Over 9 linear feet of materials document the Mid-Shore League's participation in local and national elections and substantiates its work through grassroots campaigns and information on public issues such as health care, fiscal responsibility, education and immigration. An array of research and documentation on the aforementioned subjects in conjunction with a variety of other topics is also housed within the collection. Materials correspond with the tasks set before the League chapter and are relevant to the topical work proposed by the National League.

Records document the Mid-Shore League's historical dedication to the election process. Transcripts of handwritten candidate questionnaires and its election cycle publication, known as the *Voter's Guide*, document the League's participation in local, state and national elections. In addition to the published works, the Mid-Shore League held candidate forums and encouraged community participation, all in the name of non-partisan voter education. In addition to educating voters, the Mid-Shore League, as well as the national League, protected voters, ensuring that all eligible voters, even those in under-represented groups, would have the opportunity and the information they require to exercise their right to vote.

Administrative records, membership records and financial records prove the great lengths to which this organization extended its outreach and support on vital governance issues. The women and men active in this organization believed in their community and the power of the democratic system.

We continue to add finding aids online to further the discovery of our vast history. Please check our website often as we continue to add more collections.



The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Shore
Voters' Guide
★ August 2010 ★
Primary Date: September 14, 2010

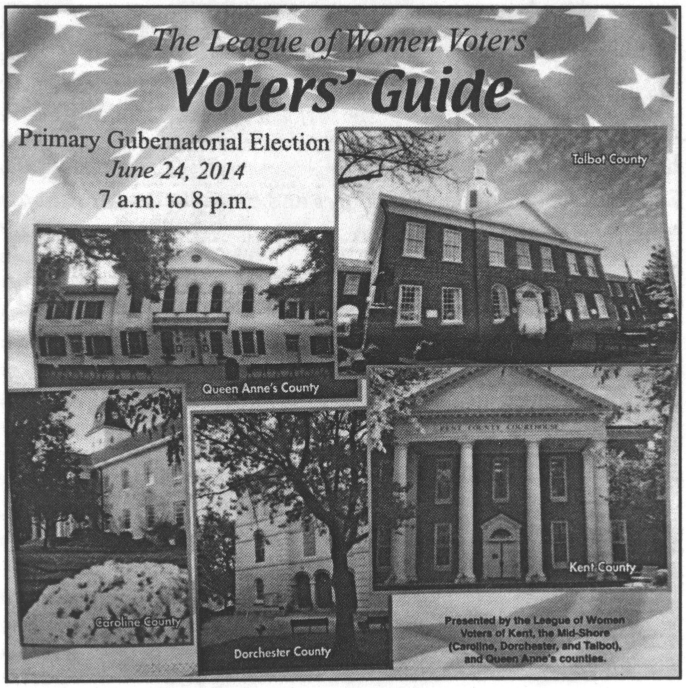
EARLY VOTING
September 3, 4, 6-9, 2010

FEDERAL OFFICES
U. S. SENATE
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARYLAND STATE OFFICES
GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR
COMPTROLLER
ATTORNEY GENERAL
MARYLAND STATE SENATE
MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

COUNTY OFFICES
CAROLINE COUNTY OFFICES
DORCHESTER COUNTY OFFICES
TALBOT COUNTY OFFICES

PO Box 1724 • Easton, MD 21601



The League of Women Voters
Voters' Guide
Primary Gubernatorial Election
June 24, 2014
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Presented by the League of Women Voters of Kent, the Mid-Shore (Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot), and Queen Anne's counties.

Upcoming Events and Exhibits

Delmarva: People, Place & Time Exhibit

Niemann Gallery Exhibit

Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. • Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

This self-guided exhibit highlights various aspects of Delmarva history, including Native Americans and early settlers, agriculture and water, family influences, an early 19th century home, and military history. Also features documents and artifacts from the University Archives, now part of the Nabb Research Center.

The Stage Is Set: Leland Starnes & the Salisbury State Theatre Exhibit

Thompson Gallery Exhibit

January 3-May 31

Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

This exhibit showcases the Salisbury theatre program in the 1970s under the direction of Leland Starnes. Through a variety of material, including photographs, production posters and design sketches, visitors experience the theatrical creations that received rave reviews from the community and critics. The exhibit celebrates the hard work and dedication of many staff, faculty and students. Sponsored by the Salisbury University Libraries.

Reception

Guerrieri Academic Commons Fourth floor

Thursday, February 9, 6-8 p.m.

When Communities Come Together: African American Education on the Eastern Shore Exhibit

Guerrieri Academic Commons First floor lobby

January 3-May 31

Building hours – see Library website

Examine the educational challenges and triumphs for African Americans on the Eastern Shore post-Civil War. Focusing on the Princess Anne Academy, Rosenwald Schools, the process of desegregation and Salisbury University, experience the trials and tribulations that students faced for decades. This exhibit celebrates African American History Month as well as Women's History Month by highlighting some of the educators who strived to improve the quality of education for African American students in their communities. Sponsored by the Public Humanities Committee, the Department of History and the Nabb Research Center.

Reception

Guerrieri Academic Commons First Floor lobby

Thursday, March 9, 6-7 p.m.

Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities Documentary Film

Guerrieri Academic Commons, Assembly Hall

Thursday, March 9, 7-9 p.m.

Finding the Ancestors: Tracing African American Genealogy Lecture

Guerrieri Academic Commons, Nabb Research Center

Monday, February 13, 7 p.m.

Aston Gonzalez, SU assistant professor of history, discusses methods of researching African American family history. Space is limited. Please call 410-543-6312 to register.

A Brief Relation of the State of Delmarva Lecture

Guerrieri Academic Commons, Assembly Hall

Wednesday, May 10, 7 p.m.

Economist and historian Phillip LeBel, Ph.D., explores the age-old question of statehood for Delmarva.

Nabb Fundraising Event

Somerset County, MD

Saturday May 6, 4-7 p.m.

Visit the private, historic home "Harrington" for an evening of good friends and good cheer. Tickets and reservation information available in spring.

Mrs. Jeanette Chipman and student at Salisbury High

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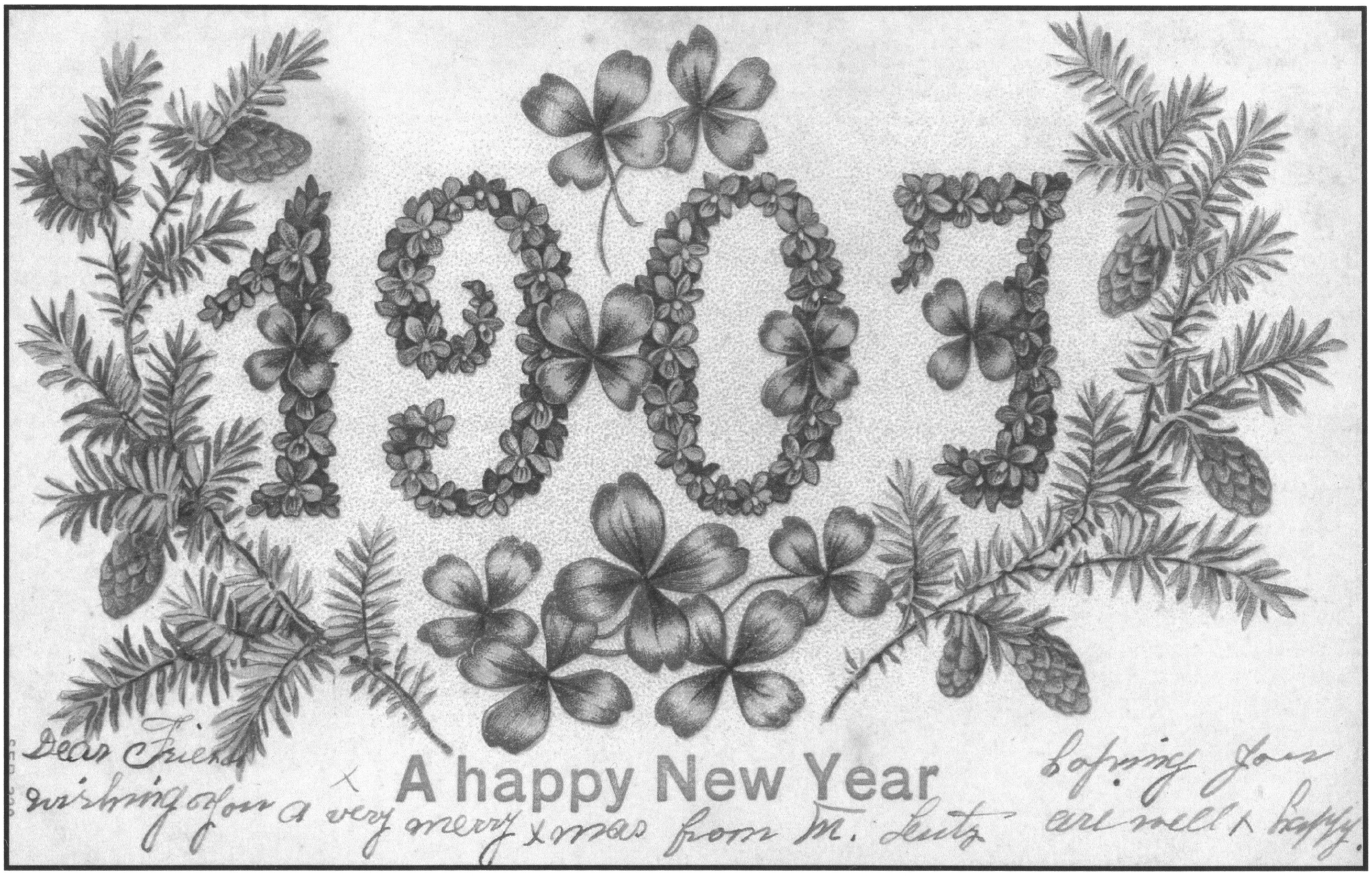

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wishing you a very merry xmas from M. Lutz
hoping you are well x happy.

Postcard from 1907 sent to Beulah Lescallette
LesCallette Collection